FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 MARCH 1986

Libyan-U.S. Clash in Gulf of Sidra

Libya's version of the 24 March clash in the Gulf of Sidra was contained in an unscheduled announcement broadcast by Tripoli television, which claimed that Libyan air defenses responded to U.S. violations of Libyan airspace over the Gulf by shooting down three U.S. aircraft, two of them at noon and a third in the evening. The announcement added that the U.S. fleet shelled the "suburbs" of the city of Surt with rockets. JANA subsequently stated that U.S. planes attacked a "civilian" Libyan ship and cited a statement by an "informed source" claiming that U.S. aircraft attacked tugboats which went to assist the stricken vessel. Libyan forces, in contrast, permitted a U.S. helicopter to search the area where two U.S. planes were shot down, the source maintained. JANA also accused U.S. planes of following civilian aircraft as a means of obtaining radar cover to enter Libyan airspace.

Meanwhile, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio exhorted the Arab masses to storm and destroy all U.S. bases and targets in the Arab world and to execute U.S. "spies" posing as "experts and consultants." Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi discussed the U.S. "aggression" in a telephone conversation with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, SANA noted, and JANA subsequently announced Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's arrival in Tripoli.

In a related commentary reported by Damascus radio, the Syrian paper *AL-BA'TH* linked events in the Gulf of Sidra with "the tense situation on the northeastern front between Syria and the Zionist enemy," adding that the United States is openly backing Israeli "threats" against Syria. For Iran's part, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi stressed "full support" for Libya in a statement cited by IRNA, asserting that the U.S. action was a "flagrant violation" of Libya's territorial integrity and is considered "an aggression against all Islamic states."

Sudan

At their meeting in the Ethiopian city of Koka, the National Alliance for National Salvation and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) reached an agreement "on the broad lines of the situation which should precede official dialogue between the two sides," SUNA reported, adding that a committee was established to "formulate the resolutions which have been reached." Addis Ababa radio reported 25 March that the Sudanese delegations ended their meeting with an agreement to hold a constitutional congress in Khartoum in June. The National Alliance delegation head also announced that the two sides would meet again 7 May to prepare for the constitutional conference, while the SPLA delegation head said an agreement was reached that the Transitional Military Government will resign and that Sudanese military agreements with other countries will be canceled, the radio added.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian troops "succeeded in completely annihilating" an Iraqi brigade in heavy fighting along the Al-Bihar-Basra road 24 March, while Iranian naval forces sank Iraqi vessels in the Khawr 'Abdallah before they could approach Iranian positions, an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed.

OPEC Affairs

The OPEC conference meeting held in Geneva 16-24 March was adjourned until 15 April "in order to allow enough time for OPEC heads of delegations to consult their respective governments, as well as with other oil-producing exporting countries," according to a press statement carried by OPECNA. In a related report, the chief Iraqi delegate to the conference told AFP that Iraq is not prepared to compromise on its demand for a 13.1-percent quota of any oil production ceiling decided upon by the OPEC countries.

Israel: Inter-Arab Affairs

Israel has always welcomed direct talks with any Arab leader, senior Israeli officials said in reaction to a proposal by Morocco's King Hassan II that an Arab head of state be "elected" to meet with an Israeli official, Jerusalem radio reported. KUNA reported earlier that in an interview with Kuwait's *AL-SIYASAH*, the Moroccan king proposed that an Arab leader meet with an Israeli official to "ascertain the enemy's views on the Fes summit resolutions." The king stressed that under his proposal, the Arab head of state "will not negotiate, will not be committed to anything, and will not sign anything."

Shelling in Southern Lebanon

An army of southern Lebanon (ASL) artillery attack on the southern market town of Al-Nabatiyah was not authorized by ASL Commander General Antoine Lahd, who has ordered the imprisonment of the ASL soldier responsible, Jerusalem radio reported. The shelling killed 3 people and wounded 24 others, the radio said.

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Arab League Council Session Opens in Tunis

LD250020 Kuwait KUNA in English 2026 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Tunis, March 24 (KUNA) — The Arab Council opened here this evening its 85th ordinary session amid calls for convening an early Arab summit to tackle the present circumstances and great challenges faced by the Arab nation.

Speakers at the inaugural session, including foreign ministers of Tunisia and Bahrain as well as the Arab League secretary general, were unanimous on the lack of a minimum Arab consensus necessary to deal with the grave dangers now posed and the state of deterioration in inter-Arab relations and solidarity needed to restore lost Arab credibility.

The dangers cited by the speakers included the escalation in the Iraq-Iran war now threatening to spill over to Arab Gulf countries, the Palestinian cause and the stepped up persecution by the Zionist enemy in all occupied Arab lands.

League Secretary Chadli Klibi made special stress on the seriousness of the massive Iranian assault against Iraq, unleashed last February 10 with the aim of occupying part of its territory, and reminded that the Iranian forces' presence near the Arab Gulf threatens security of the entire region.

Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives

JN241607 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Tunis — [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the accompanying delegation arrived in Tunis today to participate in the meetings of the Arab League Council's 85th session which will begin work on the level of foreign ministers in Tunis tonight.

Receiving Al-Shar' and the accompanying delegation at Tunis International Airport were Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general; 'Adnan 'Umran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political and international affairs; 'Umar al-Sayyid, Syrian charge d'affaires in Tunis; and the embassy staff.

These meetings will discuss the report of the Arab League General Secretariat and the topics on the agenda regarding Palestinian, Arab, and interantional areas. Talks will also deal with the issue of the Jerusalem Electricity Company, with the fund for meeting financial requirements of educational projects in the occupied territories, and with the deficit in the UNRWA budget, as well as with the situation in southern Lebanon.

The meetings will also discuss Arab-African cooperation, liberation movements in southern Africa, and diplomatic relations between Spain and Ivory Coast on one hand and the Zionist entity on the other, as well as the U.S. and British withdrawal from UNESCO and Arab-European dialogue. They will also discuss other topics regarding legal, administrative, and financial affairs.

'Arafat Discusses PLO-Jordan Links, U.S. Role

JN241411 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpt] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat resumed his talks with Egyptian officials in Cairo today. The delegation accompanying him took part in these talks. Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will meet today with Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

The intensive talks which began between the Palestinian leader and Dr Usamah al-Baz [Director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs] and his aides following his meeting with President Mubarak yesterday continued today for several hours. According to informed sources, these consultations are aimed at finding a way out of the current crisis or the deadlocked peace process which has been going on since the suspension of coordination between King Husayn and the PLO leadership. In light of these consultations President Mubarak is expected to meet again with Abu 'Ammar, perhaps tomorrow.

What is definite is that these talks are aimed at restoring dialogue between Jordan and the PLO. This has been confirmed by Yasir 'Arafat in his statement to our radio. He said: This Egyptian mediation is an attempt to bring viewpoints closer between us and the Jordanian brothers after dialogue between us and them has been halted. He also disclosed that there are other Moroccan, Saudi, and Iraqi mediations.

He added: We are eager to maintain relations with Jordan and we should not have differences nor allow our differences with the United States to be an object of disagreement between us and Jordan.

In his statement to our radio, 'Arafat expressed his readiness to leave for the United States in order to explain the Palestinian people's question if the opportunity is made available to him. He also disclosed a retreat in the U.S. position in the last few hours of the Amman talks.

Interview: U.S. 'Errors'

JN242035 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Huda Tawfiq in Cairo; date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Huda Tawfiq] What really happened during all the Palestinian-Jordanian-U.S. moves?
['Arafat] We were given to understand by the Jordanian side, which was like a channel between us and the U.S. side, that the Americans were insisting that the PLO recognize [UN Resolution] 242 and that they were using the word "unclouded," meaning that this recognition should be very clear. There would be nothing (?in return) for this recognition. If the PLO did this, the United States would be prepared to extend, or rather agree — because it is not the United States which extends the invitation

— that the UN secretary general could extend an invitation ot the PLO to attend an international conference.

This contains certain errors. The first U.S. error is that the Americans were exposed when His Majesty King Husayn revealed what was presented to the PLO. They said: King Husayn has not revealed all that we have proposed to him. The Americans said: We informed the king that there is an Israeli position in regard to the U.S. position and that the Israeli position has the power of veto concerning attendance of the PLO and its [not further identified] attendance. We were not informed of this.

Another thing is that the United States does not have absolute power in terms of ordering or giving views to the UN secretary general. The secretary general submits to two powers: The first is the General Assembly and the second is the Security Council. The United States is 1 of 15 UN Security Council members and 1 of 5 permanent members having veto power.

What surprised me — and I commented on this during my visit to Turkey — is that while I was in Turkey, I was surprised that Murphy announced in a press conference that he had not received any of the three PLO formulas which we had announced that we had handed over to His Majesty King Husayn. In Ankara I said that this was untrue and inaccurate because I personally handed these formulas over to His Majesty King Husayn and I am sure his majesty must have handed them to the Americans. I also presented a copy of these formulas to President Mubarak. I also said that I would be delivering a copy of these proposals to Turkish President Evren that day.

Therefore, the Americans started retreating from their statements that they did not receive the formulas. They said that they had received them but had not made any response to them. One of these formulas reaffirms King Husayn's statement in the Rose Garden in Washington before Reagan on 29 May 1985.

[Tawfiq] Concerning the PLO'S readiness to move toward peace?
['Arafat] Of course, indubitably. And also with regard to our rights, that we are prepared to attend an effective international conference with the participation of UN Security Council permanent member states and the parties concerned in the Middle East struggle, including the PLO on an equal footing within a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, based on the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right of self-determination, and based on all the UN resolutions, not just 242 and 338.

[Tawfiq] What about the Egyptian, Iraqi, and Saudi mediations? What are their bases and in what direction do they head?
['Arafat] The Egyptian, Iraqi, Saudi, and Moroccan mediations are attempts to bring views closer between us and the Jordanian brothers now that the talks between us have stopped. We welcomed this because we are eager to maintain this relationship between us and our Jordanian brothers.

Our differences with the United States should not be a door leading at any moment to differences with our brothers in Jordan because the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is a strategic one. When our PNC met in Algiers there was no Palestinian- Jordanian agreement, nothing of the kind. Nevertheless, we in Algiers made a strategic decision, saying that relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples are special relations and that any future relations between them must be based on a confederation. This was agreed upon in [year indistinct]. In 1985 after the PNC meeting in Amman, we reached the 11 February agreement with our brothers in Jordan. We envisaged a confederation between the Jordanian and Palestinian states.

[Tawfiq] Where have these mediations gone now?
['Arafat] We hope they will succeed. Let us be discreet about this.

[Tawfiq] What about the possibility of resuming the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue?
['Arafat] To my knowledge the dialogue has not stopped. My brothers are still in Jordan. Fatah Central Committee members, Executive Committee members, and the PNC speaker are there.

[Tawfiq] [Question indistinct]
['Arafat] This depends on the U.S. response. If the United States wants to continue its arrogance and actions, this will be outside my power and outside the power of King Husayn.

[Tawfiq] Is there no possibility that the formulas or phrases could be rewritten to make them acceptable to all sides?
['Arafat] What sides? Do you mean the United States? The United States wants to pressure the PLO in order to offer concessions to Peres before he uses [words indisticnt] in his next elections. That is how the United States views things. It uses us as a cat's-paw. It is a tragedy that the Palestinian people's national rights should be tools and documents which are used by this or that leader of by the United States to appease the Tel Aviv rulers. It is a tragedy.

[Tawfiq] Under what conditions will the PLO recognize 242?
['Arafat] If the UN Security Council member states guarantee the Palestinian people's right of self-determination within their legitimate rights as approved by international legitimacy.

[Tawfiq] Moscow has announced its readiness to guarantee a solution in conjunction with the United States and the permanent member states. Are there any close meetings between you and the USSR leaders?
['Arafat] There have been high level meetings.

[Tawfiq] Will you visit Moscow?
['Arafat] So far my schedule does not include a visit in the near future. However, there are continuous meetings between us and the Soviet leaders.

Problem is U.S. 'Intransigence'

NC250653 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0510 GMT
25 Mar 86

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat — identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar — by Cairo Radio correspondent Siham al-Buluq; place and date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Al-Buluq] Abu 'Ammar. The view during the past few years has been that Palestinian efforts up until 1 month ago relied basically on the relationship between King Husayn and Yasir

'Arafat, or between the PLO and Jordan. Now, after His Majesty King Husayn has announced the cessation of, let us not say the relationship, but consultations, what strategy will Palestinian action use in the next stage?

['Arafat] First of all, we act on the basis that the nature of these relations is strategic. The relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples is unique. This was accepted by the PNC its meetings in Algiers and Amman before the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was reached between King Husayn and myself. On this premise, and I say this so that everybody will understand, we will continue our sincere and constructive efforts to ensure the continuation of this Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. We have asked and are asking all Arab brothers to help us in this. We have not ended the dialogue: Some of our brothers — members of the Executive Committee, Central Committe members, and the PNC chairman — are still in Amman and have not ceased the dialogue with Jordan. However, as I said, the problem is not a Jordanian-Palestinian one. It is between us and the intransigence of the United States, which we are all, together with our friends, trying to overcome.

[Al-Buluq) Abu 'Ammar, whenever you give a press or radio interview or meet with an official, you are asked about Resolution 242. In this interview, I would like to hear your excellency's views on Resolution 242 and on the U.S. stand, particularly as we know that the PLO has presented three formulas for solving the problem?

['Arafat] I want to ask: Why only Resolution 242? Why do we not say ... ['Arafat changes thought]. The PLO has recognized all the international resolutions as forming an indivisible whole. We are talking about all the international resolutions. Why this insistence on only one resolution?

[Al-Buluq] Thank you, Abu 'Ammar.

Fatah's Khalaf: Jordan-PLO Accord 'Waste of Time'

GF241220 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
24 Mar 86 pp 1, 13

[Excerpt] Manama — In statement to *AL-ITTIHAD*, Salah Khalaf [Abu Iyad], Fatah Central Committee member stated that the organization began exchanges with Syria last year. He affirmed that these exchanges now continue, stressing that the organization would try to reach something of an understanding with Syria based on its own principles. He added that they have not yet reached a practical step toward realizing Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation.

He noted that Syria's condition to remove 'Arafat from the leadership of the organization as a basis for reconciliation no longer holds following statements by President Hafiz al-Asad to the French press. He affirmed that there are no conflicts among the Palestinian factions, but that the main conflict is between the organization and Syria, stressing that if reconciliation between the organization and Syria is achieved, all of the Palestinian problems would be solved.

Abu Iyad stated that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is a waste of time, because King Husayn stopped adhering to it. Abu Iyad added that the Fatah movement is willing to accept the Aden-Algiers agreement as a basis for dialogue among the Palestinian factions. He explained that the cancellation of Amman agreement and the Cairo announcement can take place at a new PNC session.

Over $21 Billion Provided as Arab Assistance

GF241110 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English
24 Mar 86 p 15

[Text] Loans and assistance provided by eight Arab funds and financial institutes to Arab and other developing countries reached $21.95 billion between 1973-85.

By the end of 1985, a total of 1,722 financing operations were concluded in 100 developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and elsewhere.

The contributions of these funds were varied, with the share of the Islamic Development Bank reaching $4.530 billion, an equivalent of 20.7 percent of the overall loans.

The Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development granted loans valued $1.080 billion, 4.9 percent of the overall loans.

The OPEC Fund for International Development granted $1.987 billion, 9.1 percent of the total credit.

Loans by the Saudi Fund for Development were valued at 4.882 billion or 22.2 percent of the total loans.

The Iraqi Fund for External Development granted loans valued at $1.733 billion or 7.9 percent, the Arab fund for economic and social development $2.335 billion, equal to 10.6 percent, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development $4.722 billion or 21.5 percent, and the Arab bank for Economic Development in Africa $6.81 billion or 3.1 percent.

The infrastructure sector, including transportation and communications, power, water and sewerage in developing countries, received financial support reaching $12.5 billion of the total operations. Production sectors such as agriculture and livestock, industry and mining, received $7.12 billion while other sectors received $2.30 billion.

Arab countries received $11.25 billion (723 operations or 51.3 percent of the total operations extended). African countries received $4.20 billion or 19.1 percent, Asian countries got $6.03 billion or 27.5 percent and Latin American countries received $365 million or 1.7 percent.

GCC Secretary General Bisharah Grants Interview

LD211749 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT
21 Mar 86

[Interview with 'Abdallah Bisharah, GCC secretary general, by unidentified presenter; date, place not specified — recorded; first paragraph is studio introduction]

[Text] 'Abdallah Bisharah, GCC secretary general, left Morocco this morning following a visit during which he had talks with a number of his majesty's ministers. Bisharah spoke on the results of his visit to Morocco and the developments of the Iraqi-Iranian war in light of the Iranian attack on Al-Faw, in addition to the efforts of the GCC countries to confront the developments in the region, especially the state of Kuwait, which is the most [word indistinct] because of its geographical position adjoining Iraq.

[Question] Mr Secretary General, we follow continuously the developments of the war between Iraq and Iran and the dangers which these developments have brought, especially after the Iranian attack on the Al-Faw region where fierce battle are raging now. Is it possible to consider that your current visit to Morocco is linked with these developments?

[Bisharah] I would like to say how happy I am to be leading a delegation of the general secretariat of the GCC on a visit to Morocco at the generous invitation of the Moroccan Government. Frankly, it was by chance that the recent developments in the Gulf region coincided with my visit to sister Morocco. I did not come here because of these developments; rather, we are here in response to a generous invitation. [words indistinct] I found it an occasion for putting the officials of the sister Moroccan Government in the picture regarding the nature of the developments witnessed in the Gulf lately. I clarified the situation during my talks with the officials, and I acquainted the Moroccan officials with the nature of these developments and their dangers. I also acquainted them with the measures taken by the GCC countries to confront these developments. It pleases me to say we are proud and happy and appreciate the attitude of Morocco toward these developments, the attitude which was clarified by His Majesty King Hassan II during his press conference.

[Question] Yes, we learned that some newspapers in the United Arab Emirates have called for the holding of an Arab-Islamic summit to hear the views of Iraq and Iran and draw up a plan to end the war between the two countries. Has the GCC studied a proposal of this kind?

[Bisharah] In the GCC we believe that diplomatic action should not be confined to one channel; rather, it should be diversified and should reach the widest scope, benefiting from every channel. I cannot say whether such a proposal was studied in detail. What was studied in light of the latest developments is how to find a means of dealing with the latest events. We have not excluded any channel possible of benefiting us, be it bilateral relations, or traditional diplomatic means. We must not hesitate to benefit from any possible channel in order to contain the effects of the Iraqi-Iranian war and to deal with it. Let it be clear that the GCC ministerial council has not studied this issue in detail [words indistinct]; rather, it studied the possibility of using all the channels in order to deal with the latest developments.

[Question] Mr Secretary General, how much understanding, cohesion and coordination is there among the GCC members for confronting future developments in the region, especially since the dangers of the war have become an open threat to Kuwait, a neighbor of Iraq. We notice that the Iranian Navy is carrying out piratical operations against Kuwaiti merchant ships in the Gulf.

[Bisharah] I say to you frankly that the Gulf countries are facing a situation which is not ordinary; an unusual situation should be dealt with by unusual means. Therewfore, security is the top priority now in the coordination among the members. They have adopted coordinated, protective measures to deal with the latest developments. Also, they took coordinated steps in the diplomatic context. The GCC members strive for solving problems through peaceful means [words indistinct] and aim to live in peace and respect charters, including international law and the UN Charter. They also resort to diplomacy in its capacity as an effective way of dealing with problems. Inevitably, the GCC has escalated its diplomatic contacts. It is possible to say that the GCC members up to now have dealt wisely with the latest developments [words indistinct] and with effective methods which for the past 2 weeks have facilitated the reduction of tension. We have great trust in our good intentions, credibility and the contacts we have achieved throughout the world.

In short, there is coordination on the latest developments. We hope, God willing, that the Gulf region will witness stability and calm, which will deliver it from danger and the specter of foreign intervention — which would not be useful to any of us. Thank you.

Joint Forces Shell Lahd Positions Near Sidon

JN241811 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Palestinian and Lebanese fighters shelled several positions of the Zionist Lahd's militia in Al-'Ayshiyah, southeast of Sidon, at dawn today. A statement by the joint Palestinian-Lebanese forces said that more than 30 Katyusha missiles, as well as rockets and artillery shells, were fired at the positions of these militia, causing several fires in the area and killing or wounding several of the agent elements.

Conference Suspended Without 'Firm Decision'

To Meet Again 15 April

AU241322 Paris AFP in English 1318 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Geneva, March 24 (AFP) — The OPEC ministerial conference was suspended Monday without any firm decision.

Algerian sources said the ministers agreed to meet again on April 15. Other sources said a statement would be issued stressing the need for cutbacks in a bid to prop up prices. The sources said the statement would contain no reference to a temporary ceiling of 14 million barrels a day discussed by the ministers since the weekend.

According to these sources, the statement was likely to emphasize the need for continued consultations.

To Defend $28 Oil Price

LD241653 Vienna OPECNA in English 1442 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Geneva, 24 Mar. 86 (OPECNA) — The 77th (extraordinary) meeting of the OPEC conference, which started here on 16 March, was adjourned today until 15 April.

A press statement issued today said:

"After having deliberated at length on the present market situation and the measures to be taken to restore stability in the world oil market, the 77th (extraordinary) meeting of the conference, which met in Geneva, Switzerland, from 16 to 24 March, 1986, decided to adjourn its meeting and to reconvene on 15 April, 1986, in order to allow enough time for OPEC heads of delegations to consult their respective governments, as well as with other oil producing exporting countries." OPEC sources said the venue of the meeting would be announced later.

The OPEC oil ministers were joined last week by delegations from five non-OPEC countries -- Angola, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico and Oman — who, after extensive exchanges, pledged cooperation and support for the organization's efforts to stabilize the oil market and strengthen prices.

The 18 oil producing countries also agreed to defend the oil price at 28 dollars a barrel. OPEC conference president Dr Arturo Hernandez Grisanti told reporters Friday [21 March] that "all necessary efforts" would be made to gradually lift the present price to the desired level.

Dato Rastam Hadi of the Malaysian delegation said Saturday: "We will support OPEC efforts by taking actions to ensure that the aim of stabilizing the oil market and strengthening the price is realized."

The 77th conference also considered a report prepared by a group of experts from member countries, set up earlier last week to reassess the technical aspects of the world oil supply and demand situation for 1986. The group was headed by OPEC Deputy Secretary General Dr Fadhil al-Chalabi.

The extraordinary meeting was preceded by meetings of both the OPEC ministerial executive council and the market monitoring committee.

No Cutback Agreement

AU241343 Paris AFP in English 1337 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Geneva, March 24 (AFP) — Ministers from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) failed Monday to agree on a cutback in crude oil production, as the 13 member countries differed on how to share out a proposed reduction of three to 3.5 million barrels a day among them.

Gabon's deputy oil minister, Augustin Hervo-Akendengue, said the current OPEC conference, which opened here on March 16, was officially suspended. He said the ministers intended to resume their talks on April 15.

Several delegations said overnight they had to consult their governments. It was not immediately clear whether the resumed talks would be held in Geneva.

Attempt Made To Finalize Measures

LD241117 Vienna OPECNA in English 0952 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Geneva, 24 Mar. 86 (OPECNA) — OPEC oil ministers have gone into session this morning in an attempt to finalize measures to stabilize the oil market.

The ministers, who began the 77th (extraordinary) meeting of the OPEC conference on Sunday, 16 March, are believed to have reached a consensus in principle on reduced production, but sources said they were still working out the issue of individual country quotas.

The five non-OPEC countires — Angola, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico and Oman — which attended the Geneva meeting in response to an OPEC invitation, have agreed to extend their cooperation to measures the organization might adopt to strengthen prices and stabilize the market.

The meeting, now in its ninth day, is being chaired by OPEC Conference President Dr Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, Venezuelan minister of energy and mines.

Iraq 'Not Ready to Bargain' On Quota

AU241933 Paris AFP in English 1923 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Geneva, March 24 (AFP) — Ramzi Husayn, chief Iraqi delegate to the just-ended OPEC conference here, Monday [24 March] said Iraq was "not ready to bargain" on its demand for a 13.1 per cent quota of "any level of OPEC production or ceiling."

In an interview with AFP, he said the fighting between Iraqi and Iranian forces in Faw was "limited" and had no impact on Iraq's oil production.

Nor had it influenced the talks here of oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, he added.

Mr. Ramzi, who stood in for Iraq's oil minister Qasim Taqi al-'Uraybi at the conference here, said Iraq now has a crude oil production capacity exceeding five million barrels a day — four times the production quota assigned to it under OPEC's Vienna decisions four years ago.

He said Iraq had "agreed to accept" a quota of 1.2 million barrels a day "on the condition that it would be increased as soon as our export facilities allowed us to do so." Iraq's exports via its Gulf terminals were blocked at the start of the Iran- Iraq war in September 1980.

Iraqi output has risen to an average of 1.7 million barrels a day in the past quarter following the commissioning of a new pipeline via Saudi Arabia half a year ago. This is roughly one- tenth of OPEC's recent production level estimated at 17.5 million barrels per day.

"We are disappointed that some member countries are not accepting the obligations of the (1983) London meeting which recognized that Iraq's quota of 1.2 million barrels a day was a temporary one," Mr. Ramzi said.

The proposal discussed here — but rejected by Iraq — would have maintained the Iraqi quota at about 1.2 million barrels a day, out of a total OPEC production limited to 14 million.

Iran objected to this proposal too because it would have raised the Iraqi share by one percentage point to about 8.5 per cent of the total.

Mr Ramzi said 13.1 per cent would be "a right share," based on such criteria as Iraq's oil reserves, production, historical trends, population and financial needs.

He said the 13 delegations were returning home for consultations with their governments with "many scenarios in their pockets," implying various production ceilings. "Fourteen million barrels a day is the most likely," he said.

Mr. Ramzi said the recess — the ministers are resuming their talks next April 15 — "will give time to clarify and for some to rethink their positions."

But asked whether they might leave without an agreement, he replied, "yes, everything is possible."

Most of the 13 delegations here are apprehensive that failure to produce at least some measure of concrete results could send the oil market into a tailspin with even more damaging effects on OPEC and its non-OPEC allies alike, conference sources said.

The ministers held a one-hour closed session, then recessed for an hour. There was no immediate explanation.

Ministerial sources say the 13 member countries accept the idea that OPEC as a whole will have to make significant cuts in crude oil output from the recent level of about 17 million barrels a day (MBD) in order to turn round the underlying downtrend in oil prices.

Proposals to cut production to between 14 and 15 MBD were discussed in private consultations overnight, according to several sources.

But agreement on a meaningful reduction depends on whether the ministers are able to sort out the tricky question of how to distribute the cuts among the member countries.

This is directly tied in with the war between fellow OPEC members Iran and Iraq, which is now in its sixth year.

For Iraq has made it clear that it is not willing to revert to the 1.2 MBD quota allocated to it under the 16 MBD OPEC production ceiling set in October 1984. It argues that its traditional production capacity was much higher, and that a new pipeline via Saudi Arabia has enabled it to boost output to 1.7 MBD since the autumn of last year.

Iran, on the other hand, has threatened to produce two additional barrels for each barrel of crude pumped by Iraq in excess of its 1.2 MBD quota.

"The problem is not setting a ceiling but allocating a quota within that ceiling," Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah told Arab reporters overnight.

Libyan Oil Secretary Fawzi al-Shakshuki told AFP Saturday night that the latest compromise proposals aimed at circumventing the deadlock over permanent quota adjustments by setting "provisional quotas for the next six months."

Delegates meanwhile declined to confirm a report from Qatar that the ministers had settled for reducing OPEC output to 14 MBD over the coming three months .

Sheikh 'Ali al-Khalifah was meanwhile quoted as saying that if OPEC countries failed to conclude an agreement now "then we will be forced to strike a deal in two months — but all of us will be losers by then."

Talks Said Hurt by Political Links to Gulf War

NC231238 Paris AFP in English 1216 GMT 23 Mar 86

[By Jan Kristiansen]

[Text] Geneva, March 23 (AFP) — A political stalemate linked to the Gulf war held up OPEC oil ministers' talks here today as Mani Ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah of the United Arab Emirates said they had a "fifty-fifty per cent" chance of returning home with agreed policies to reverse the fall of crude prices.

Mr al-'Utaybah made the remark as the ministers resumed their talks in the seclusion of an 18th-floor suite at a Geneva hotel.

In Moscow, meanwhile, the Communist Party daily *PRAVDA* said the current oil market crisis was part of a "carefully planned offensive" by the capitalist countries intended to "weaken and break" OPEC.

The Soviet Union, which is the world's biggest oil producer, has increased its sales on the Western market over the past few years and oil traders say it has contributed to the present oversupply. But its sales have fallen off since the beginning of the year.

BAHRAIN

AL-ADWA' Urges OPEC To Find Solution to Oil Prices

GF220823 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Mar 86

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Manama, 22 Mar (WAKH) — In Bahrain, the weekly newspaper *AL-ADWA'* calls on the OPEC extraordinary ministerial council conference in Geneva to reach results to which OPEC members will adhere and through which the required coordination can be reached to bring oil prices to a reasonable level acceptable to both producers and consumers.

In its editorial today, *AL-ADWA'* says that what is required is to hold negotiations with difficulties in convincing these countries of the use of coordination and cooperation after Britain and Norway refused this. This shows these countries' ill intentions and plotting to break OPEC unity and weaken the economy of other OPEC and non-OPEC oil-producing countries.

In conclusion, *AL-ADWA'* asserts that the challenges posed by the current crisis require OPEC member countries to make sacrifices and commitments that may appear difficult to implement at the beginning but whose results will benefit all OPEC countries by reviving the world economy from its current slump.

KUWAIT

National Assembly Debates Administrative Reforms

GF241134 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 23 Mar 86 p 5

[By Amir 'Abd Sa'ud]

[Excerpts] Kuwait's National Assembly completed its debate on administrative reforms of the public sector at a special meeting yesterday presided over by the speaker, Ahmad al-Sa'dun.

The deputies called on the government to take "decisive steps" to develop and reform the administration and end corruption.

Deputy Muhammad al-Murshid, who opened the debate, warned against discrimination between Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti employees, pointing out that many expatriates performed their duties honestly and wanted to serve the country. "We should not consider them responsible for problems," he added.

He said that corruption was long standing and had many aspects such as poor productivity which resulted in wasting public money and ignoring the rights of the public and insulting them which forced people to seek influential contacts to complete their work.

He asked: "How can we expect employees to be diligent while their superiors are careless?"

If senior officials were not punctual, the lower staff would also not come on time, he said.

Deputy al-Murshid said that giving more than one post to an official was one of the reasons for corruption.

He pointed out that many youths were jobless and could hold the posts given to one man.

Deputy Mubarak al-Duwayla said that many promotions and decisions were taken to benefit certain people.

Deputy al-Duwayla said the government still insisted on appointing unqualified people to high posts.

He said that one reason for administrative corruption was the weak control and follow up of the work of officials and employees. He said that a CID [Central Investigation Department] officer had told him they arrested many smugglers and hashish and liquor addicts every day, but they were released by a telephone call.

Deputy Jasim al-'Awn said that corruption in the administrative sector included using public posts for personal benefit and ignoring public interests, awarding tenders to companies owned by government officials or their relatives, taking bribes, using office hours for personal work, giving promotions and allowances to relatives and friends, mistreating people who came to complete formalities, red-tape, and lack of a good example by department heads.

The Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid, pointed out that the government shared the deputies views on administrative reforms, adding that the expansion the country had witnessed over the past few years made the government explore ways to develop and modernize the administration.

He said that education was a basic priciple for the modernization of administration, adding that education and administrative reforms students should be guided to the educational institutions that made them productive and effective.

Crown Prince Addresses Rally in Al-Jahra'

LD242341 Kuwait KUNA in English 1954 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Kuwait, March 24 (KUNA) — H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah reiterated Monday that Kuwait would not be intimidated by threats and would continue its course in the service of mankind and for security, stability and prosperity of states in the Gulf region.

Addressing a mass rally in the northern governorate of Al-Jahra' this evening, organised to welcome his highness's recovery and return home, Shaykh Sa'd reminded of the historic sacrifices made by the governorate in repulsing attacks by previous invaders and of the fierce battles fought against the enemy in defence of the country.

"Let me speak in clear terms," his highness told the rally, "and reply to those serving messages of threat, intimidation and blackmail that tiny Kuwait, area and population-wise, is strong by its faith and the unity, courage and staunchness of its sons."

The people of Kuwait, Shaykh Sa'd emphasized "will not be deterred by intimidation and will press ahead with their advance, in the interest of humanity at large."

He underlined that "our hands will always remain stretched to all those who want to talk and cooperate with us for the security, wellbeing, stability and prosperity of states in this region."

"In the meantime," Shaykh Sa'd cautioned, "we will reciprocate to those harbouring animosity or peace to us."

Speeches were delivered during the rally, praising government efforts to develop the country and ensure the citizen a decent life in addition to a show of folkfore dances and musical parades, reflecting people's joy at the safe return of his highness after a period of medication abroad.

OMAN

Oil Minister on Readiness To Cooperate

GF241719 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Muscat, March 24 (WAKH) — Omani Oil and Minerals Minister Sa'id Ahmad al-Shanfari affirmed that Oman's participation in OPEC and non-OPEC countries oil ministers meeting came within the framework of its keenness to study the best means of sucking the huge surplus in the international oil market and restore the previous price situations.

In a statement published by Omani newspaper *'UMAN*, Mr al-Shanfari denied that OPEC asked Oman or the other non-OPEC four countries to cut down their production capacity, and affirmed that his country did not give any promises on this concern.

He said that Oman, as an oil producing country, is opposed to any developments on this commodity in production and price, and thus Oman will participate to urge the other non-OPEC countries, which did not participate in the meeting, for cooperation and coordination to absorb the oil inflation.

He affirmed the joint meeting held in Geneva urged the five countries to invest their distinguished relations with the other oil producing countries for cooperation and coordination and participate when possible in the next month meeting to complete the unanimous study of the cul-de-sac.

Al-Shanfari praised the positive cooperative spirit shown by the five non-OPEC countries in the joint meeting saying that OPEC has to beneft from the joint meetings outcome and to close ranks among its member states in order to prepare the way for the next meeting.

Regarding the petroleum situation in Oman, Al-Shanfari said it is "stable" and added that his country sells its petroleum with the official oil prices.

He pointed that Oman can double its production capacity but it is abided to a production of 550,000 barrels a day according to the needs of its five-year plan currently being implemented in Oman.

Oman has received several offers to buy the Omani oil, but Oman is keen to reserve its oil resource especially in such international oil circumstances, Al-Shanfari disclosed.

Asked about Oman's readiness to reduce its oil production, the Omani minister said that his country is ready to cooperate in order to narrow the current oil crisis.

SAUDI ARABIA

Cabinet Discusses OPEC, Iraq-Iran War

GF241858 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1825 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Riyadh, 24 Mar (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and chief of the National Guard, chaired a Cabinet session held today.

Following the session, Dr 'Alawi Darwish Kayyal, minister of posts, telephones and telegraph and deputy information minister, made a statement to the SPA correspondent. He said: During the meeting, the Cabinet reviewed Arab and international issues, particularly those dealing with the economic and petroleum issues. In this respect, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz briefed the Cabinet on the process of the talks held during the OPEC meetings in Geneva. His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz affirmed the concern of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the importance of continuing cooperation among OPEC member countries to safeguard the organization and enable it to achieve its goals. His excellency the deputy information minister stated: The Cabinet then reviewed the Iraq-Iran war. His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz reaffirmed the Kingdom's desire for an end to the war between two Muslim sisters to avoid further bloodshed and preserve the human capabilities and military equipment to resist the joint enemy, the first to profit from this war which has created a big gap in the Islamic folds.

His Excellency Dr 'Alawi Darwish Kayyal stated that the Cabinet also urged the two Muslim sisters, Iraq and Iran, to respond to the calls of Islamic countries to end the war and turn to purposeful and constructive dialogue in the interest of Iraq and Iran in particular and of Muslims in general. His excellency the minister of posts, telephones, and telegraph and deputy information minister concluded his statement by saying: The Cabinet then reviewed various issues on the agenda and issued a number of decisions in this regard. The Cabinet also transmitted certain transactions to some committees specialized in defined instructions.

Deadlock in Arab-Israeli Peace Prospects Viewed

LD232353 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] A Palestinian official said that breaking the deadlock reached in the process of seeking a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict has become the responsibility of parties outside the region which have been preventing the arrival at a reasonable formula.

The opinion that international efforts have recently abandoned, to some extent, the continuation of the process of seeking a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict for numerous reasons — at the forefront of which is probably the fact that the Israeli enemy has succeeded in its pressure on the development of events by attacking any attempt aimed at finding a just and durable peace — is justified by the fact that these efforts have reached a deadlock. The origin of this deadlock lies in the psychological constitution of the enemy which cannot coexist with peace in any way. If peace were to be achieved, Israel would lose a lot of foreign material aid either from countries which support it or from Jewish organizations and communities in the world because the Israeli entity does not try to be self-sufficient. This factor incites the leaders of the Zionist entity to the necessity of continuing tension and war, to secure the continuation of foreign aid which is considered to be essential for the survival of Israel.

As it is known, the situation has reached a deadlock at the limits of the demand made to the PLO to recognize the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for giving the PLO a place in any negotiations discussing the future of finding a solution to the Palestinian rights. Such a demand causes a certain fear in the organization with regard to its role in the negotiations if it recognizes the two UN Security Council resolutions. From the organization's point of view such a fear is justified.

The alternative idea represented by the international conference which was proposed by the United States and the USSR and whose revival is called for by the PLO appears acceptable; however, it has been exposed to pressures which led to it being frozen. The process of seeking peace cannot evolve by asking a party to relinquish everything in exchange for nothing. The Palestinians are exposed to this to make them accept the situation. Thus, it appears that a long time will pass before the deadlock will be broken. It has become clear that any forward movement is conditional on the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Industry Minister Regrets EEC's Taxes on Products

GF211153 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0615 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Al-Dammam, 21 Mar (WAKH) — 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zamil, Saudi minister of industry and electricity, has expressed regret over the EEC's stand imposing customs taxes on Saudi products.

In a statement published today in the Saudi newspaper *AL-YAWM*, the Saudi minister underlined the importance of coordination and understanding in this connection. He noted understanding between the two parties is the best way to deal and that there is no need to reciprocate "because they have their interests and we have ours."

The Saudi minister of industry and electricity urged the GCC countries not to levy taxes on Saudi products. He noted that it would become clear to them that "the best way to preserve their interests is to not levy taxes and to treat our products the same way we treat theirs."

He stated that his ministry would complete the projects under construction. There are more than 200 industrial projects under construction and will be investments of about 7 billion Saudi riyals by Saudi businessmen over the next 2 years.

UAE

Mauritanian, Maldivian Ministers Arrive

GF241656 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Mar (WAKH) — Mauritanian Minister of Finance and Economy Mohamed Salim Ould Lekhal arrived here today on a short visit to the UAE.

During his stay, Lekhal will hold talks with officials here on means of promoting relations between the two countries.

Maldives Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel also arrived here today coming from Amman, Jordan, on a visit to the UAE.

Jameel will also hold talks with officials here on ways to boost bilateral relations.

The two ministers were received at the airport by Ya'qub al-Kindi, acting undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry and other officials.

Mubarak Receives Attorney General Al-Jindi

NC241229 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — Today President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Attorney General Counselor Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jindi, following the conclusion of the investigations into the recent riots.

Lufti on Post-Riots Economic, Social Measures

PM211156 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 14 Mar 86 pp 12, 13

[Interview with Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lufti by Muhammad Zayid in Cairo; date not given; passages in italics are editorial insertions by *AL-AHRAM* of extracts from Mubarak "assignments" to Prime Minister Lutfi]

[Text] [Zayid] A question persisted in my mind at the outset of the dialogue because of its being reiterated by the public opinion, and I said to prime minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi:

How can we understand correctly the president of the Republic's entrustment of seven assignments to the prime minister in the wake of the latest riots, with most of these assignments defining what had already been contained in the president's letter of designation of 4 September 1985, inviting the prime minister to form the Cabinet? At the time, the president had instructed that steps be taken without delay to tackle the problems facing our progress. The president introduced his seven assignments in his latest speech by saying that there exists a popular feeling that he understands and to which he responds and that enough time has passed to draw up detailed plans capable of implementing the ambitious reform program.
[Lutfi] I would like to point out here that it was natural for the president to put his finger on these seven points because he lives and coexists with the masses and feels their hopes and pains.

Some of these assignments, if not all of them, were actually contained in the 4 September 1985 letter of designation entrusting me to form the Cabinet. The fact is that the current Cabinet has actually drawn up plans and programs to carry out these assignments. The president's latest speech is understood to mean that he is demanding prompt implementation so that the masses may feel truly tangible results, especially in these spheres. I had planned to send letters to the gentlemen Cabinet members as soon as the president concluded his speech. However, I went with his excellency the president to inaugurate the Cairo International Fair and the visit lated until 1900. At 0800, the following morning, Sunday, 9 March, I sent a letter to the gentlemen Cabinet members asking them to reexamine the programs already formulated in order to enhance the production rates as much as possible so that the masses may feel the results of these plans and programs in the shortest time possible. I set the hour of 1200 of Wednesday, 19 March, as the date for a special Cabinet meeting to discuss the plans and programs modified in accordance with the assignments given by the president's speech to the People's Assembly and Consultative Council. I decided that, if necessary, the session would continue through the following day or the day after until we completed approving the modified programs aimed at prompt implementation and declared them immediately.

[Zayid] At this point, I said to the prime minister:
Does the matter require every so often the modification and renewal of assignments that represent extant fundamental objectives, with us saying that these assignments define the method of work for the coming whereas we do not know when the previous phase ended in order that a new phase may start? Is there not continuity and perpetuity in the Cabinet's performance within the framework of a comprehensive program?
[Lufti] We do certainly have a plan and the plan has executive programs on which there is followup. But there is also what is called plan flexibility. This means that when we draw up a 5-year plan — and we are now working on the 4th year of the 5-year plan plan — we cannot truly predict 100 percent of what will happen in the 5 years. This is why the modification is made when unexpected circumstances develop.

We were surprised in January by an extraordinary dinary daily drop in oil prices. I defy anybody in the world to say that he could have taken this drop into account or expected it 4 years ago. This is an international development beyond our control and by which we have been surprised. To adapt to this development, some modifications have to be made. Let the citizen rest assured that we have our plan, that this plan has its executive programs, and that the problem is confined to the sudden developments confronting us. I wish to point out here what has been accomplished in the past 6 months, because the current Cabinet had been in office for 6 months and 4 days when the president made his speech. Even though this is a short period in the life of peoples, nations, and states and despite the unopportune circumstances and the extraordinary problems that have confronted the Cabinet for reasons beyond its control, including, for example, the hijacking of the cruise ship and the Egypt Air airliner, the sharp, rapid and sudden drop in oil prices and the latest riots, I say that despite all this the cabinet has been able, God be thanked, to achieve numerous accomplishments. I will try to confine myself here to these accomplishments pertaining to the assignments given by the president's speech.

Assignment One:
President Mubarak: "Adopt immediate steps capable of achieving greater rationalization of spending so that we may be actually able to make up for the drop in revenues resulting from the drop in world oil prices. This is a basic issue that can withstand no delay."

[Lutfi] I will note in this regard the reduction of the external trvel allowance by one-third, and by two-thirds in the case of residence at government premises or resthouses and in the case of the party to which the worker is sent or delegated shouldering all the expenses. I will note my decision to reduce the maximum allowance set by the state, by public legal status persons, by the banks and, by other public sector companies for individuals representing them on the executive boards of one or more parties from 12,000 to 6,000 pounds annually. I will also note the new rules regulating the travel of delegations to the outside world so that a delegation may include no more than three members, whereas the number amounted to 5 or 10 members previously. I will further note in connection with spending rationalization the directive issued to the economic circles, companies, and banks that negotiations concerning agreements or purchase contracts with the outside world be held in Egypt and that the supplying party shoulder the cost of coming to and negotiating in Egypt so as to rationalize the use of foreign currency.

We have also banned the publication of officials' photographs in the newspapers in the form of paid advertisements. The citizens have perhaps noticed that the prominent officials' photographs did not, for the first time, appear in the papers for days and days after inauguration of the Cairo International Fair. I will also note the instructions issued to put new controls on travel for treatment abroad at state expense and the efforts exerted to reduce by 25 percent the number of workers in our technical offices abroad, our embassies, and our consultates. To crystallize the principle of linkage between society's needs and the various spheres of scientific research undertaken by our research institutions, I have asked the ministries to familiarize me with their requirements in this regard so that these requirements may be presented to the research institutions to meet them in order to rationalize the expenditures made in this connection and to utilize the expertise available in our research institutions. This is a point frequently raised by the press, which wonders why we enlist the service of foreign consulting firms when we have the Scientific Research Academy, the universities and the research centers.

[Zayid] And the total sum of what has been achieved by this kind of rationalization?
[Lutfi] The truth is that we cannot calculate it because the decrees come in succession and are implemented and produce their results gradually. But it is definite that the savings will appear with the start of the new budget on 1 July 1986. This point will get special consideration.

Assignment Two:
President Mubarak: "The government decrees that the elimination all the obstacles impeding the forward surge of the private sector and of investments generally must be comprehensive and complete to give a real forward surge and full confidence that we feel on the homeland's soil. If we appeal to the capitalists' patriotism, then we must at the same time plant in their hearts confidence, reassurance, and peace that leave no place for apprehensions or doubts on their part."

[Lutfi] We will certainly work to develop and issue comprehensive and complete decrees for the forward surge of the private sector and will work to implement them expeditiously. But this does not deny that some decrees have been achieved and these can be compiled in *AL-AHRAM* today so that they may give the citizens a picture of the accomplishments. A directive has been issued entitling all the projects set up within the new cities to the established 10-year tax exemptions and to complete tax and customs fees exemptions for the equipment and machinery imported for such projects. What is important here is that any project set up in accordance with the Investment Authority's law No 43 of 1974, is given by this law a 5-year tax exemption but no exemption for customs fees on imported machinery.

An investor setting up a project in the new cities would tell them [public investment authority] that the reconstruction and new communities law allows him a 10-year tax exemption and an exemption for customs fees on machinery and the Investment Authority would respond that he is subject to law No 43. He would then go to the New Communities Authority and they would tell him: You have your approval from the Investment Authority.

I settled this issue in the first days after formation of the Cabinet. We said: As long as a project is set up in the new cities, then regardless of whether it is subject to the Investment Authority's law No 43 or to other laws, he will enjoy the tax exemption and the customs fees exemption for machinery for 10 years. The private investment sector was very pleased. We have made a decision in the Cabinet not to change the economic policies until we conduct a profound study with the circles affected by any such change. This has been one of the private sector's very important demands. We have also taken a decision to reconsider the customs tariff in order to protect local production, to encourage local industry, and to also encourage investment in agriculture, industry, housing, and tourism. The Ministry of Finance has promised to complete the amendments in the customs tariff within a short period. In the wake of the president's latest instructions, I immediately asked the minister of finance to exert efforts to complete the new customs tariff as soon as possible.

One of the most important decisions made is perhaps the decision to require the investor to submit the economic feasibility study on his project to one authority only. God willing, we will soon apply this decision to land reclamation and will surprise the citizens with establishing a land reclamation investment bureau after sufficient preparations are made for it. On top of all of this, we have formed a committee to study the requests of the importers harmed by the 5 January decrees in order to achieve justice and encourage investment. We have also approved an agreement on gold prospecting that will yield a revenue of no less than 10 million pounds annually. We have further approved easy-term loans at 4-percent interest for the projects of agricultural firms. I have set up at the premier's office a bureau to solve the investors' problems and have amassed for it a number of excellent economists. This bureau has been able to settle no fewer than 50 problems for investors recently and we have numerous letters of thanks from these investors.

We have formed a joint committee from the government and businessmen to exchange opinions on the economic conditions and policies. It is headed by Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, the deputy prime minister and minister of planning. I have issued a decree stipulating that representatives of the public sector be included in this committee's membership. So, it is no longer the businessmen's committee, as some people say, but the business sector committee, including both the private and the public sectors.

Assignment Three
President Mubarak: "Bolster the public sector, free it of the shackles imposed on it, and enable it to modernize its production instruments and to absorb modern technology."

[Lutfi] We will work to achieve this objective as soon as possible. However, it is certain that we have made a considerable stride on this path. We have formed a working team to review the conditions of loss-making firms in which the public sector companies are shareholders, to analyze the causes of these losses and find out whether they are due to reasons beyond the control of those managing these firms or due to mismanagement or mistakes in the economic feasibility studies, and to present its conclusions to the Higher Investment and Economic Affairs Committee. We have also issued a decree stipulating for the first time in Egypt's history publication of the public sector companies' budgets because the people own the public sector. A study on the ideal method to manage the public sector has been launched and the outcome of this study will be presented to the Higher Policies Committee to make its decision on it.

To open the door of job promotion to craftsmen so that they may rise to grade one instead of being frozen in their current position in grade two, I have issued a decree to modify the criteria for classifying the jobs of the public sector workers to make it possible to add a formal level to the grade one jobs to be named "supervisor, extraordinary head craftsman."

I have also issued a directive to the public sector companies, which are meeting these days to prepare their plan budgets, to set reasonable figures for their targets because what used to happen in the past is that they set small figures for their target to say afterwards that they exceeded the tgaret and to demand incentives. I have told them that this approach is unacceptable. The public sector must develop and must set ambitious goals for itself. I have sent a letter to all the ministers controlling the public sector companies and asked them to instruct the chairman of every loss-making company to send me immediately a study pointing out why the company is making losses and the recommendations for a cure. We will hold a conference to discuss the conditions of the loss-making companies in each sector separately and to formulate solutions for this chronic problem that has persisted for years and years. We are making preparations for the purpose and we will implement the recommendations expeditiously.

[Zayid] I said to the prime minister: The people are suffering between the state's declared objectives and the way in which the executive agencies actually deal with them, as if these agencies are detached from the state policy. This is evident, for example, in the reclamation of new lands for which the state declares a certain price whereas the governorates demand a price tens of times higher. The same goes for construction in the new cities. The state offers land at utility cost whereas the housing companies deal with the people in a commercial manner, seeking to make the biggest profit possible.
[Lutfi] I beg any citizen who finds a gap between what I personally and my colleagues the ministers declare and what the executive agencies do to notify me immediately and he will get a final decision immediately.

Assignment Four:
President Mubarak: "Formulate an unconventional tourism policy. If the latest riots will affect the tourism revenues, then confronting this fact dictates a positive approach toward all the tourist-exporting sources in the various parts of the world to encourage tourist investment in Egypt."

[Lutfi] Tourism has actually been confronted with adverse circumstances, some of which I have already pointed out, such as the hijacking of the cruise ship and of the airliner or the riots in the Al-Haram area. There is no doubt that these events have affected tourism. They are uncontrollable events that have caught the government by surprise. But this does not discourage us from formulating, with utter determination and efficiency, an unconventional plan for the enhancement of tourism despite these circumstances, as the president has demanded. In the past 6 months we have adopted a number of decisions, some of which have led to settling the argument over the control of Cairo Airport. This argument had led to harmful consequences and we have decided that the Cairo Airport Authority will continue to be under the control of the minister of tourism and civil aviation and that all the agencies within the airport will continue to be under the control of the authority chairman. The multiplicity of control had undermined the performance level.

As for the fund for the revenues of the additional fee on air travel tickets, a decision was made to form an executive board for this fund, comprised of the ministers of finance, local government, premiership affairs, culture and tourism. This council has met repeatedly and discussed the requests made by the authorities concerned to finance projects for environmental protection, for beautifying some historical areas and for developing the public sector hotels. It has made decisions whose implementation has already started. We have also agreed to form a new tourist limousine company different from the limousine company that was under the control of the Egyptian Tourism [company], whose control then shifted to the Nasir Bank and which is faltering at present. We are conducting a feasibility study on the new company so that it may begin immediately. It will be a "private sector" company for the sake of good management and expeditious performance.

[Lutfi] We have also begun to study domestic tourism, especially in the wake of the latest blow dealt to foreign tourism. At a meeting of the Higher Tourism Council, we adopted several decisions calling for purging the airports, for simplifying their procedures, for keeping them clean and for supplying them with locally manufactured products. We have also made a decision to study the possibility of reviving Asyut Airport via a line linking Cairo with Asyut and the New Valley. This line will go into operation shortly. We have, moreover, set next July as the final date for inaugurating Terminal 2 at Cairo International Airport, considering that this building is 2 years behind schedule.

Furthermore, we have reexamined the conditions for leasing tourist sites. The law stipulated that the lease contract be for 3 years only and this stipulation drove away those who wanted to invest in this activity. We have now extended the period to 10 years, while stipulating that the rent will be increased by a certain percentage annually. We will thus see an upsruge in opening public and tourist businesses with top-level furnishings, not at the level we now see. We have made a decision to set up tourist centers on the main expressways. We will begin with the Cairo-Alexandria desert highway, building a fuel and service station for rapid car repairs, a cafeteria, a restaurant, a telephone [booth], a shopping center and all the other services a traveler needs, as we find in Europe and the United States.

A meeting will be held next week with the minister of tourism and Alexandria governor to take some measures concerning Alexandria beaches so as to improve and enhance their service efficiency level. We have also prepared a temporary sewerage project for Alexandria because, to be completely frank, most of the Egyptian summer vacationers went last year to Turkey, Cyprus, Greece, and the European beaches, abandoning Alexandria. The new project will be inaugurated next month and will guarantee that all of Alexandria's beaches will be clean this summer.

[Zayid] Are you considering unconventional cures to boost the export of tourists to Egypt and to overcome the consequences of the latest riots?
[Lutfi] We are actually considering a large number of measures which are being currently adopted to encourage tourism. Despite the past and recent riots, I am optimistic that tourism will return to normal very shortly. Moreover, we issued prompt decisions for rebuilding and reconstruction, and their implementation has nearly begun. Immediate compensation is paid to give the investor the confidence to come to our country and set up tourist and other projects, resting assured that should be, God forbid, be subjected to any [damaging] circumstances he will get his money back.

[Zayid] And the size of the repayable losses resulting from the latest losses?
[Lutfi] There are three committees currently receiving the requests for compensation: the Hotel Installations Committee, the Public Businesses Committee, and the Vehicles Committee. The latter has 15 days to complete its work whereas the first two committees have a month to do so. The accurate loss figures are being compiled. The estimated figures say that the losses amount to 150 million pounds.

[Zayid] Some have expected certain decisions to come as a result of the president's appeal [to the Egyptians] to spend this summer in Egypt to encourage tourism and to make up for the consequences of the latest riots?
[Lutfi] First, I add my voice to the president's voice and appeal to all the citizens who have been usually spending their summer abroad in recent years.

[Zayid] The people's question is: Are theere measures amounting to restrictions?
[Lutfi] We will impose no restrictions on travel abroad. This is not the government's tendency. Our tendency relies on the citizens' response to our appeal. The latest riots have proved that democracy is the best weapon on which we can rely to have the people respond to the government without any compulsion or coercion. Regarding the tourism issue, I am confident that the citizens will respond to the government. We resort to inducement and incentives, not restrictions.

Assignment Five:
President Mubarak: "Lessen the procedure in the government offices' activities concerning the citizens, such as obtaining licenses and real estate pxrmits and litigation procedures. I hope that we will lessen all the steps needed for the citizen services because I have personally heard a lot about them.

[Lutfi] This assignment to lessen the administrative procedures and to ensure their promptness embodies in fact a fundamental point from which the citizen suffers in his daily life. Let us speak frankly. When a citizen goes to a land registration office, a post office, or a telephone office, when he renews his car license or driving license or when he deals with a passport office or with other agencies concerned with civilian affairs, he finds that the place is not properly prepared. It may be small or unclean, the official may not be present or the procedures may be multitudinous, and so forth. To deal with this situation, Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, in cooperation with a number of the gentlemen ministers — each within his jurisdiction — has drawn up a plan to develop these offices. But the matter requires some time. We have begun by establishing the so-called model office. We have opened a model land registration office and a model post office. The plan calls for transforming a number of offices in each district into model offices. But implementation is not as easy as making decisions. Development requires money. But we are moving as fast as we can. This is an opportunity for me to urge the workers of these offices to support us. They are a part of the government and, at the same time, they themselves are citizens, each of whom will one day require the services of other offices where his interests may be delayed.

[Zayid] I said to the prime minister: People don't get the state services as a right to which they are entitled, but get them either by begging for the service or buying it.
[Lutfi] I believe that I have fully defined the government position on the question of the services to which every citizen is indisputably entitled. The plan drawn up guarantees that we will never hear such things.

[Zayid] People also complain of the hardship in litigation procedures. The judiciary talk of the multiplicity of laws and of judiciary authorities and demand a comprehensive legislative reform encompassing with in its framework the application of advanced systems implemented by numerous countries, including a civil prosecution that settles minor cases and alleviates the burden of the courts, along with judiciary police who insure the prompt implementation of decisions. What has obstructed the application of these systems in our country is that they need 10 million pounds.
[Lutfi] I will tell you that the Cabinet has entrusted Counselor Ahmad 'Atiyah, the minister of justice, to examine and conduct a study on this issue. I say, frankly, that any amendment of the legislation to simplify the procedures will take some time. But I say at the same time that regardless of how much we amend the laws, we will not succeed unless the citizen cooperates with us.

Assignment Six:
President Mubarak: "Reexamine the crop structure so that we may put the emphasis in the old lands on achieving self-sufficiency in most of the crops connected with the people's food, with the new lands set aside for the intensive cultivation of fruits and vegetables channeled toward export."

[Lutfi] His excellency the president is completely right on the need to reexamine the crop structure because our current problem is that the per capita share of cultivable lands is small. Moreover, if we calculate the share of the 50 million citizens of the land cultivated with grain, we would find that the situation, particularly for wheat, which can be used as a weapon to starve people and especially since the world wheat-exporting countries are comprised of five specific countries [sentence as published].

This is why the president's demand for reexamination of the crop structure is essential. The Ministry of Agriculture will submit a new crop structure to the Cabinet's coming session and we will declare this structure to the citizens.

Despite this, I should point out that agricultural production and the agricultural sector took effective steps in the preceding period. We have appropriated for agricultural guidance, which is extremely important, a sum of 5 million pounds as a service investment loan from the National Investment Bank so that agricultural guidance may move forward to achieve its objectives. We have also begun the introduction of a new method to Egyptian agriculture, namely hot house farming. All the citizens have seen on television the president's visit to such hot houses. We started with 200 hot houses and then proceeded to increase them. This encourages not only agriculture but also industry because many of our industrial companies began to produce hot houses when they felt the market demand for them. I want to make it clear to the ordinary citizen that seven or eight hot houses can be erected within a single feddan, that the production of such a feddan becomes the equivalent of the production of 7 or 8 feddans, and that an entire family can enjoy a high standard of living on its income.

The islands formed by the river silt deposits, covering a large area, are being surveyed. We will cultivate them and this will lead to an increase in production.

We have also launched a project to improve the drainage of 500,000 feddans annually and a progam to improve sugar cane production in 120,000 feddans in the Upper Egypt governorates and to improve and cultivate the fallow lands interspersing the delta and valley lands amounting to 280,000 feddans. The outcome of these activities will not, of course, materialize overnight. However, we are exerting efforts to implement promptly in accordance with the president's speech.

Assignment Seven:
President Mubarak: "Adhere carefully to the policy of constant and daily frankness in revealing the details of the economic situation through the media, acting in close cohesion with the consumer and worker masses. I hope that we will rely in this regard on the people's vigilance and their high awareness. The policy of frank revelation has proven its success and the people have responded to it, choosing of their own will their position of support for the regime, security, and law."

[Lutfi] In the first session the Cabinet, held after it was formed on 4 September 1985, we laid down for ourselves what is called the government's work constitution. It is perhaps the first time a Cabinet has committed itself to such a constitution, which contains 15 points, headed by the point of frank revelation of all the facts, regardless of how painful, to the masses because this frank revelation is the true inlet to solving our problems.

Despite the difficulties I have pointed out, we promise the people and his excellency the president that we will redouble the efforts to carry out the assignments contained in his speech. I hope that every citizen will help us achieve our plans. The fact is that I do not work alone but with the efforts of my colleagues the ministers who do their utmost and who work with utter honesty, honor, and integrity as a completely coordinated working team.

[Zayid] In frankly revealing the facts of the economic situation to the people, what are the fundamental points on which this frankness can be established? Are there new cures toward which we will be compelled and which the people must know and are sacrifices required of the people?
[Lutfi] The major fact in this frank revelation is that we are experiencing a drop in oil prices that has led and which will, by necessity, lead to a drop in the state's foreign currency revenues. The impact on this year's budget is nearly 700 million dollars and the cure needed is to adopt a number of measures that do not affect people with limited income, and I am saying it frankly.

[Zayid] And what about the issue of the subsidy and of its delivery to those who merit it? It has been subjected to discussion so frequently that we have almost come to believe that there is no solution.
[Lutfi] I agree with you that the subsidy issue has been discussed to death. I cannot say that we are still discussing it because I would be kidding myself. I, personally, as an economics professor, have had my fill of discussing it. What is happening now is not discussion but the preparation of practical measures to apply a fundamental and final solution to the subsidy problem so as to achieve two objectives:

First, insure that the subsidy is delivered only to those who merit it. Two objectives emanate from this: To give the subsidy to people with limited income and to withhold it from those with big income.

Second, to deliver the subsidy to those who merit it with ease, facility, and dignity because I am not pleased with the current situation of columns of middlewomen and of fights at the doors of the cooperatives.

[Zayid] What about the triangle of production, wages, and prices? Is it visualized to link the three sides of this triangle, considering that a country living under our conditions is in the direst need of such linkage?
[Lutfi] Certainly. This triangle is before our eyes whenever we make a decision.

[Zayid] Inflation dictates that we pause a little before the wages issue. Is it likely that the prices of certain commodities will be stabilized in the interest of people with limited income?
[Lutfi] It is likely. When an increase develops in the prices of any essential commodity, it must be countered by an increase in the incomes of the citizens who deal with this commodity because we, as a government, always take the people with limited income into our consideration. We do not condone their shouldering any new sacrifices. On the contrary, we work to raise their living standard.

Lutfi Comments on Economic Challenges Facing Egypt

NC241155 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi has stressed that Egypt has all the human, economic, and technical resources to proceed with development plans in accordance with their prescribed goals. He also said that Egypt is capable of confronting the challenges it is facing. Some of these challenges, he added, have resulted from international circumstances. For example, the drop in oil prices in world markets means that our foreign currency income will be reduced by nearly 1.2 billion dollars by next July. This came in a speech delivered by the prime minister today at the opening of the seminar of finance and banking organized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Cairo.

In his speech, the prime minister said that Egypt is facing other challenges caused by an imbalance in the basic components of our national economy. He added that Egypt will meet these challenges by utilizing its resources in the agricultural, industrial, investment, and energy fields. He went on to say: In agriculture, Egypt is working to increase the area under cultivation by two million feddans during the next 5 years and to provide Arab land with the necessary irrigation water. In addition, we intend to bring about a vertical expansion in the use of [word indistinct] and the restructuring of crop production. In the field of industry, action is underway to increase production, both qualitatively and quantitatively, in line with the purposes for which 50 billion pounds have been invested in that sector.

Concluding his speech, the prime minister emphasized his confidence that Egypt has resources to achieve its economic targets. He added: This is due not only to our economic stability and the availability of resources but also to the peace concluded with Israel. We are working to turn this into a comprehensive peace so that constructive economic cooperation may be established among the countries and peoples of the region.

Lutfi Holds Talks With PLO's 'Arafat

NC241623 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation in his office this afternoon. Following the approximately 1-hour meeting, Yasir 'Arafat said that the discussions had been a continuation of yesterday's talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

'Arafat expressed his thanks to the people, president, and government of Egypt for the efforts they have made to ensure that these relations continue to the benefit of both the Palestinian and Jordanian people, as well as that of the Arab nation as a whole. Responding to a question about the fate of a Palestinian draft report, which, according to an announcement made by 'Arafat during his last visit to Cairo, contained three formulas to be submitted to the United States, 'Arafat stated: We are still waiting for an official U.S. reply. The reply that I received in Amman was unofficial.

'Arafat reaffirmed the positive nature of the current U.S. stand, which, for the first time, had referred to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Such a position complements UN Security Council Resolution 242 on the right of the Palestinian people to express their views before any resolutions on issues concerning them are passed. MENA has also learned that the meeting dealt with efforts to promote the convening of an international conference in order to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue.

People's Assembly Statement on Palestinian Problem

NC241316 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1106 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — At today's session, led by Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, the People's Assembly approved the joint statement by the Arab Affairs and Foreign Affairs Committees. The statement stressed that the Palestinian problem is the core and essence of the Middle East conflict and that any solution to this conflict that does not guarantee the Palestinian people's right to exercise its legitimate rights in freedom and self-determination will not establish the desired peace in this sensitive area of the world.

The statement added that the just and lasting settlement of the Middle East problem is essential for peace in the region and for stability and security for its countries and peoples. Such a settlement can be reached by a conference in which all concerned parties participate, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The statement appealed to the various Palestinian groups to unite their ranks and their stands, and to agree on a position that will maintain the strength and legitimacy of their struggle, the independence and effectiveness of their decision-making, and the legitimacy and credibility of the Palestinian problem.

The statement stressed the need for the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders to continue to cooperate and coordinate so as to move the search for a just solution to the Palestinian problem in the right direction. The statement expressed appreciation for the true and sincere efforts of the Egyptian leadership to maintain the impetus for the peace process and for unity on the Jordanian-Palestinian role. In conclusion, the statement appealed to the Arab brothers to look on the fateful issues from a pan-Arab perspective, and not from a viewpoint of narrow regional or personal interests, and to adhere to the pan-Arab aims within the context of mutual understanding and international legitimacy.

Ghali Interviewed on OAU Conference Results

PM240702 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 17 Mar 86 p 4

[Interview with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign affairs Dr Butrus Ghali by Muhammad Barakat; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] I first asked Dr Ghali about the topics discussed by the OAU ministerial council in Addis Ababa and his assessment of the conference. He said that the council's agenda included many important topics and that, although the session was mainly devoted to economic, financial, and administrative affairs of the area, some political issues imposed themselves on the meeting.

He added: This session was characterized by seriousness. In the political domain the council strongly condemned the policies of South Africa and reaffirmed support for the liberation movements struggling for the liberation of Namibia and South Africa.

It also condemned Israeli policies in the occupied territories and renewed its full support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The council also urged Israel to respect the Geneva convention regarding protection of civilians in occupied territories. During the debate on the issue of peace in the Middle East the Egyptian delegation underscored the importance of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement signed on 11 February 1985, despite its recent setback, because it was a positive turning point in the interest of the cause of peace.

Question: The council discussed Arab-African cooperation. What is the truth about this cooperation? Does it exist or was it still born?
Answer: Arab-African cooperation is an important and basic issue, and the council did give it some attention. It should be noted that Egypt has been chair country of the Arab-African Cooperation Committee since the first Arab-African summit conference held in Cairo in March 1977. I do not agree that Arab-African cooperation was stillborn. The 1977 Cairo summit was very successful. It created great hopes because it laid the foundation of cooperation and solidarity between the OAU and the Arab League. From that emerged a number of establishments and organs with the special task of boosting Arab-African cooperation.

The Arab-African ministerial council has faced numerous difficulties. It was supposed to meet in Tripoli, Libya, in 1985 but it was not held because of disagreement over whether or not the Saharan Arab Republic should attend. In brief, the Arab-African establishments have not functioned properly, and as a result, Arab-African cooperation has been frozen without any significant progress.

Question: That is perhaps why I said that it was stillborn, but is there any hope of reviving it?
Answer: Arab-African cooperation has encountered some obstacles and difficulties, but in my view it is still alive.

Question: How do you assess Egyptian-Ethiopian relations after your week in Addis Ababa?
Answer: The Ethiopians with whom I met expressed good sentiments towards Egypt. I also found the officials there to be politically interested in strengthening relations and cooperation. The important meeting held last July between president Mubarak and Chairman Mengistu contributed considerably to the promotion of an atmosphere of cordiality and understanding in our relations. I met with Foreign Minister Wolde Goshu and foreign Trade Minister Chekol Wollie. I believe that there is a wide scope for Egyptian-Ethiopian cooperation.

'Abd al-Majid Leaves for Yugoslavia, Italy
NC250709 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo this morning for Belgrade on a 3-day visit to Yugoslavia. In a statement before his departure, 'Abd al-Majid said that he is carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to Yugoslav President Radovan Vlajkovic. He explained that talks during his visit will focus on issues related to the Nonaligned Movement, in view of the movement's ministerial meeting to be held in New Delhi on 16 April.

He will also discuss bilateral relations in all fields and ways of boosting them. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister added that after his visit to Yugoslavia he will go to Italy for talks with the Italian prime minister and foreign minister on bilateral relations, the Middle East issue and its developments, and current peace efforts.

Further on Visit by Soviet Parliamentary Group

Gilashvili, 'Abd al-Majid Talk
NC241312 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, today met with the Soviet parliametnary delegation, which is currently visiting Egypt. Pavel Gilashvili, vice president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, who is leading the delegation, stated that possible areas of bilateral cooperation were discussed at the meeting.

He added that Dr 'Abd al-Majid had shown a spirit of cooperation and friendship during the talks. The leader of the Soviet delegation pointed out that the visit to Moscow by an Egyptian economic delegation, which will begin tomorrow, Tuesday, will provide a basis for the further promotion of the already growing relations between the two countries.

Lutfi Meets Delegation
NC241519 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1437 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — Prime Minister 'Ali Lutfi received the Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Pavel Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, in his office at noon today. Following this meeting, Dr 'Ali Lutfi said that the delegation members had affirmed their country's interest in developing relations with Egypt in various fields. The Soviet Union is endeavoring to achieve a comprehensive solution for the Middle East crisis based on Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories which it occupied after 1967.

The members of the delegation also indicated that the Soviet Union supports the convening of an international conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Such a conference would include the participation of the United States, the Soviet Union, the permanent members of the UN Security Council, the PLO, and all other parties concerned with this issue. Concluding his statement, the prime minister noted that the discussions had also dealt with ways to promote bilateral relations in the economic and trade fields.

Wali Meets Delegation
NC241736 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister, minister of agriculture and food security, and

NDP secretary general, today received the Soviet parliamentary delegation currently visiting Cairo. Their discussions dealt with the possibilities for promoting cooperation in the fields of agriculture, animal production, and pisciculture and for exchanging missions in the area of agricultural research. The strengthening of parliamentary relations was also discussed.

MENA Reviews Statistics on Egyptian-Soviet Trade

NC231344 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA) (Research and Studies Department) — Dr Sultan Abu 'Ali, minister of economy and foreign trade, will leave for Moscow on Tuesday [25 March] at the head of an economic delegation on a 1-week visit to the Soviet Union. During this visit, he will sign a trade agreement between the two countries for 1986, the overall value of which is approximately 600 million pounds sterling. Dr Sultan Abu 'Ali will also sign a long-term 5-year trade agreement.

During a visit that a Soviet delegation paid to Egypt last July, it was decided to form two committees to negotiate the details of this agreement, as well as to discuss the industrial projects in which the Soviet Union is participating, the various ways to guarantee growth in bilateral trade and economic relations, and pending financial commitments.

In Moscow, Dr Sultan Abu 'Ali is expected to discuss arrangements for payments between the two countries in order to encourage the volume of trade and the amount of exports and imports. There will also be talks on how to fix the exchange rate for the sterling accounting unit so that mutual trade will be promoted. Egypt is one of the Soviet Union's major trade partners. It is sixth among the Third World countries and second among African countries in trade exchanges with the Soviet Union.

Recent statistics on bilateral trade for the final 9 months of last year show a 20-percent increase in the commodities exchange. Statistics also reveal that machines, industrial and agricultural equipment, cars, tractors, spare parts, and construction material comprise 40 percent of Soviet exports to Egypt. Egyptian exports to the Soviet Union are represented by cotton, textile, furniture, Khan al-Khalili [Cairo bazaar] products, and agricultural produce such as oranges, perfumes, and medicinal herbs. The overall value of these exports has reached a total of $100 million annually. According to a report, the volume of Egyptian-Soviet trade has reached approximately 615 million pounds sterling compared to 249 million pounds sterling in 1981.

Following the resumption of relations at the ambassadorial level in mid-1984, the two countries also signed a protocol on trade cooperation. According to this protocol, Egyptian cotton, woven products, cotton goods, vegetables, fruits, salts, cosmetics, leather products, and wooden furniture at a value of 302 million pounds sterling were exported. Imports from the Soviet Union, with an estimated value of nearly 313 million pounds sterling, included approximately 1 million tons of coal, 200,000 tons of cement, 50,000 tons of fertlizers, 13,000 tons of newsprint, 38,000 tons of cardboard, and 30,000 tons of frozen fish, as well as glass, cast iron, and chemicals.

Within the framework of an existing economic protocol between the two countries, an agreement was signed last December that stipulates that 250,000 tons of coke will be imported for the Al-Nasr coke manufacturing company in Hulwan. The first shipments began to arrive in January. This deal is valued at $25 million. Egypt and the Soviet Union had earlier signed two agreements in this regard in May 1984. The first agreement pertained to the Soviet export of 250,000 tons of coal to Egypt for use in the coke company. The second agreement called for Soviet export of spare parts to be used by production units in the Al-Nasr coke manufacturing and chemicals company. This deal was valued at 1 million pounds.

Two additional agreements were signed in September 1985. According to the first agreement, valued at 11 million pounds sterling accounting units, heavy equipment and spare parts for the iron and steel company in Hulwan are to be imported in addition to train cars for transporting (?raw materials) and products. The second agreement, which was signed last December, has a value of 400 million pounds. It deals with the import of agricultural equipment and machines, 200,000 tons of cement, 1 million meters of glass sheet, and appliances such as refrigerators, washing machines, and sewing machines.

Omani Minister Ends Visit, Leaves Cairo

NC241137 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1114 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — Yusuf al-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo for Tunisia this afternoon, following a brief visit to Cairo, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. Isma'il Makhluf, Foreign Ministry under secretary, saw the minister off at the airport.

Israelis Refuse Offer for Protection

PM250936 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 Mar 86 p 5

[Muhammad al-Hayawan article: "A Word of Love"]

[Text] We do not accept terrorism on our territory or anywhere else. We all condemn and reject terrorism because we want our country to be clean and free from bloodshed and crime. If a visitor is an unwanted guest, it is our duty to protect him when he visits our country, even if we reject his presence. Arab ethics dictate that you should protect everyone on your land and give them security until they leave because you are responsible for them as long as they are on your land and in your neighborhood.

In the absence of evidence, we cannot level accusations. We cannot accuse the Egyptian security authorities of failure or negligence. No capital in the world can accuse us of that because it so happens that similar incidents have occurred in all capitals of the world with the culprits still unknown and the investigations not advancing beyond the point of speculation. There have been similar incidents in all capitals of Europe, the Middle East, and America. The victims of these incidents carried all kinds of nationalities. The security authorities in all these countries have been unable to find the perpetrators except in the cases where they were discovered by accident as, for example, in the case of the attempt on the life of the pope when the culprit was spotted in a photograph taken of the pope.

A few days ago the Swedish prime minister was felled as he came out of a theater. All kinds of sophisticated devices were used to trace the killer but to no avail. Victims have fallen in Rome, Germany, France, Britain, the United States, Spain, and Portugal, but the culprits in most cases are still unknown. Some of the victims were Arabs, others were Jews, and others were of different nationalities, but the culprits are still unknown. The Egyptian Government has not failed to protect the Israelis in Egypt. The ordinary citizen does not care whether they stay or go, and sometimes he deliberately forgets their presence, but the Israelis reject protection because they consider it a kind of control. They want to be free from control. They want to do things other than their orignal tasks and they do not want anyone to discover or know anything about their movements. They want to move freely and thus they expose themselves to danger.

While condemning and rejecting terrorism we must admit that the main problem is that the Israelis refuse protection that we offer them all the time because we realize how delicate the situation is. We also realize that an Israeli in Egypt is a foreigner in Egypt and, like any other foreigner, deserves protection in general and deserves that we should look for the culprits, because he is a human being and a foreigner not because he is an Israeli.

Weekly Raps State Security Investigation Service

PM201245 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic
15 Mar 86 pp 1,8

[Ibrahim Sa'dah article: "The State Security Service: Where Now?"]

[Excerpts] After the difficult days we have been through — which will not be forgotten easily — former Interior Minister Major General Ahmad Rushdi resigned and was succeeded as interior minister by former Asyut Governor Major General Zaki Badr. His first task was to deal with the consequences of the incidents and ensure that they are not repeated. Between the words of thanks I address to the resigning minister an the words of congratulation to the new minister, certain words, facts, and proposals should be put before public opinion. They could be in the public interest and could relieve us and restore our sense of security and reassurance.

With the permission of new Interior Minister Maj Gen Zaki Badr, I suggest that he begin by asking the State Security Investigation Service [SSIS], which is attached to the Ministry of Interior, to show him his own personal file, which grew fat in the recent years he spent as governor of Asyut, before he was appointed interior minister. I do not profess to know what is in the personal file of the former governor of Asyut but, from what I have heard from several current and former governors and from senior and junior officials, it is certain that not one of them has been spared accusations, attacks, the casting of doubts, and the questioning of their decisions. Maj Gen Zaki Badr was one of them. Therefore, it would not be strange or surprising if his file contained a share of the same defamations as others were subjected to. After all, nobody knew that Zaki Badr would become interior minister, although he was one of the candidates tipped to succeed Hasan Abu Basha.

Assuming that Maj Gen Zaki Badr accepted by proposal and asked to see his SSIS file, the chances are that he would not been shown that file and might even be told that there is no such file at all, especially now that the is interior minister. Anyway, Zaki Badr's file is not the object of this article. The new interior minister knows exactly what he has done throughout his service, his personal and administrative conduct, and the decisions he made before and after he became Asyut governor. So, what he does not see in a file that no longer exists in the SSIS archives is not important. The purpose, or the suggestion I mean to put to the new interior minister, is that he should devote some of his time to a reassessment of many of the things that come under his wing and are closely linked to his new responsibilities. What happened before the recent incidents hit us deserves serious pause and should receive extremely serious attention from Interior Minister Maj Gen Zaki Badr. That is a main part of the massive task awaiting the new interior minister.

It was a real tragedy that the incidents took Egypt, the state, by surprise. Egypt, thank God, has many security organs that watch everything and anticipate events that might constitute a threat to the country's security and safety. These security organs, however, were not aware of what was happening, particularly inside the Central Security Forces camps. Perhaps one of these organs — the SSIS in particular — knew what was going on and what might happen but did not bother to draw attention to it, or only told the circles it wanted to tell and ignored the other circles and institutions that could have moved quickly to correct the mistakes before the explosion, which might have assumed God only knows what proportions, exacerbating the situaiton and posing a threat.

If what I have heard is true, then the signs of the Central Security conscripts' mutiny were not unknown to the SSIS. What is more serious — if the stories and confirmations I have heard are true — is that the preliminary information that was available before the mutiny did not reach the people who should have been told. The simplest example of this is that the governor of Al-Jizah and the governorate security chief only found out after the Central Security Forces came out onto the streets to spread terror and fear and after they began to destroy and burn.

The motto once was that a governor, any governor, in his own governorate represents the president of the Republic and all his powers, in the sense that the governor is the highest authority to which all administrative and security organs turn. That, indeed, was the case for most of the state's organs and offices in the governorate, except the SSIS office, which maintained its independence and pursued independent activity under its central command in the capital. The justification, some claim, is that the duty of that particular organ is to watch what goes on in the governorate and, this being the case, it would be unreasonable for it to report its activity, achievements, and information daily to the governor because that would negate the purpose of its existence, because it would mean that it could not watch the performance of the governorate departments in general and the governor himself in particular.

Nobody objects to that justification, because it would be useful for any surveillance body to be free from control and domination by those whose performance, mistakes, and decisions are to be watched and whose excesses are to be exposed. The only objection arises when the state security service abandons its main task of providing security and confronting the adventurers who undermine the country's stability and makes its main concern competition with the other traditional security bodies — criminal investigation, administrative control, and accounting — in trapping employees, from the governor, through senior officials, down to the most junior.

The name of the SSIS reflects its duties. That service is not supposed to recruit agents who themselves take bribes, are suspect, and are opportunists, to supply it with incomplete information, tendentious rumors, and fabrications based on forged evidence. A political security control body should not rely on information supplied by corrupt and deviant people against their superiors at work or treat such malicious information as fact and evidence to incriminate innocent and honorable people.

As a citizen, I have a right to ask the new interior minister to correct all the wrong practices attributed to the SSIS. I know that the minister himself is not unaware of these practices, because he noted them personally when he was governor of one of the Upper Egypt governorates. These wrong practices have led those who committed them to abandon the main, nay, the sole task for which the service was created. The main job has been ignored in the interest of peripheral issues that others are supposed to handle.

It is in no way a state security matter when the SSIS recruits deviants and suspect people who take bribes in every ministry and government department and in every company in the public and private sectors to supply it with information on the behavior of the other employees in all these places. It is no state security matter when the SSIS protects these suspect agents and keeps them from harm.

How can the SSIS trust information supplied by deviants? How could a control body level accusations against honorable leaderships on the basis of fabricated evidence, and how could it question the honor and integrity of a high ranking, or even junior, official for no reason other than the fact that one of his subordinates, fearing administrative or legal punishment for his deviations, submits false accusations and suspect information to the SSIS to protect himself from punishment, terrorize his boss, and prevent his own accountability and dismissal.

Believe me, new interior minister, what I am saying here is what every honest official in every ministry and government department and institution feels and suffers. SSIS agents are spread throughout these and other places, and they have become a fearful weapon for intimidating and blackmailing their colleagues and superiors under SSIS protection. That service has changed from being a service for the protection of the country's and the people's security into a service for terrorizing and intimidating honest people, paralyzing their capabilities, and belittling their responsibilities. What is more, the deviant agents of that service are no longer ashamed of or embarrassed by their mercenary work. On the contrary, they now openly boast that they are agents of and closely linked to the most important security organ in Egypt.

They seize every opportunity to terrorize their colleagues and superiors, relying on SSIS backing and bragging that nobody dare stop them, question their shortcomings, or even contemplate reporting them to the tripartite committee so that it could dismiss them for their many crimes, deviations, and thefts. Very often, Mr New Minister, these petty agents carry out their threats. Their immediate chiefs cannot deter them, their chiefs' chief cannot scare them, and the ministers at the ministries where these contemptible agents work would not find anyone to support them if they decided to sign dismissal orders.

Mr New Interior Minister, the time has come for you to return the state security body to the path charted for it by the state when the idea of creating that body was first envisaged and to the defined tasks from which it should not deviate. Nobody wants corruption to be overlooked. Nobody accepts deviation by senior or junior employees. Nobody accepts exploitation of influence of illicit wealth. Nobody wants incompetent ministers, unsuccessful governors, ignorant directors, or depraved officials to remain in their posts, but at the same time nobody approves of such an important security body as the SSIS spending its time following and watching individuals and seeking to know what they say in their offices and homes, where they go, where they spend their evenings, and whom they see and visit.

What happened in the Central Security Forces camps was wrong, unjustifiable, and inexplicable. As soon as Ahmad Rushdi heard about it he drove his own car to the central area of the incidents and he stood there, together with Al-Jizah Governor Dr 'Abd al-Hamid Hasan and governorate Secretary Tahir al-Asmar, facing the mutineering conscripts, arguing with them, and answering their questions and complaints without losing his patience or even being aware that he was unarmed and that his life and the lives of his companions were in danger and at the mercy of any possible foolish and irresponsible act by any of the conscripts taking part in the killing, burning, and destruction.

What some Central Security Forces did and the resulting mistakes and negative aspects could have been dealt with and averted. All that, however, should not make us forget what former Interior Minister Maj Gen Ahmad Rushdi did and accomplished in his brief period as interior minister. He achieved many of his objectives, but time and circumstances did not give him a chance to achieve all he wanted to achieve as a man of security, morality, and principle and a man whose honesty and integrity are acknowledged by all.

Thanks to the outgoing interior minister and best wishes to the new interior minister: May he accomplish all that is expected of him and achieve what his predecessor could not.

Muslim Brotherhood Leader Pleads for Recognition

PM241607 Cairo AL-SH'AB in Arabic 18 Mar 86 p 3

[Muslim Brotherhood Supreme Guide 'Umar al-Talmasani article: "Open Letter to the President of the Republic from the Muslim Brotherhood"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God and of all the noble values of which honorable people are proud, I appeal to you to take my truthful words seriously and to believe that I am implementing the command of God's messenger, peace be upon him, in his saying that "religion is advice." When asked: "To whom, O God's prophet?" He said: "To the leaders, to the public in general, and to individuals." I do not claim that I alone am right; this is an effort to give advice, for, if I am right, I will have a double reward and, if not, a single reward.

When the recent incidents broke out, the Muslim Brotherhood, as is customary of them in such circumstances, denounced destruction, sabotage, and terror. They sent you a telegram to this effect and confirmed their views in a statement made to *AKHBAR AL-YAWM*. All the time they have been living in the hope that what they hear from you about equal rights and obligations among all the citizens would come true. But, when we look at the reality that the Muslim Brotherhood is experiencing, we find that it is denied the most fundamental rights that members of the public are enjoying.

The law on parties has been laid down as if specifically designed to prevent the Muslim Brotherhood from forming a party when everybody else has been allowed to form one. Every fair-minded person would attest to that. Does your excellency see this as equality among all members of the public? Are we not members of the public who work openly and condemn clandestine operation and acts of violence?

As every God-fearing person would confirm, the press law has been laid down so that it too will deprive the Muslim Brotherhood from publishing a paper expressing their views. Even when they followed the official procedure and took all the steps required by the press law, the press establishments placed hurdles in their path. It has been over 1 year that we have been trying, through various legal means, to exercise our right in this respect, yet we have been coming up against procrastination and deliberate delays preventing the issuing of a permit allowing us to publish a magazine. Does your excellency see this as equality of rights and obligations between the Muslim Brotherhood and the rest of the public? We are not here indulging in incitment but giving vent to our feelings toward such actions. All the Egyptians are allowed to publish nonperiodical books without hindrance, but when we tried to do the same we were surprised by the security men seizing the printed copies. Our lawyers exhausted themselves rushing from one office to another only to hear promises that a decision would be made tomorrow. The tomorrows come without anything happening.

All the bodies and parties hold religious and nonreligious celebrations. Only the Muslim Brotherhood alone are denied this right. Do you believe, Your Excellency, that this is equality between the Muslim Brotherhood and the rest of the public. If they ask for permission from the district officer or the governor the only response they hear from the security men is rejection. Does your excellency see this as equality between the Muslim Brotherhood and the rest of the people?

We are being treated differently from the rest of the Egyptian people. Does the government have evidence that we should be denied our political, economic, and social activities? Or is there a plan to deprive the Muslim Brotherhood of the rights that even the lowliest individual in the country enjoys. In view of these attitudes we believe with certainty that there is a persisent desire for the Muslim Brotherhood to vanish from existence.

The events Egypt is experiencing are grave, very grave indeed. Only total unity of all the citizens and complete trust between the people and government can halt all these dangers. Otherwise, the present state of tension and fear will remain as it is. If God's Shari'ah had been applied the recent incidents and previous ones would not have taken place. Nothing good can be expected from indulging in destroying the young people's spirit through what the media is offering or the paucity of the religious programs in the media and the poor quality of the few programs that are offered.

Mr president, we are Muslim Egyptians whose primary concern is that our people should live in security, stability, and calmly and contendedly under the aegis of God's laws. Any constitution or law that is laid down is the work of man; in no way it will be perfect. But "God's Book" — God having created his creatures and knowing what is good and what is bad for them down through the ages and times — is the complete book that knows no deficiencies or falsehoods. I would not say let us try implementing God's Shari'ah, because I place the Islamic Shari'ah above being put to the test, since its benefits are definite and everyone whose relations with the greater of the universe are good believes in it.

For this reason it is in this nation's interest to apply God's Shari'ah. I would not be exaggerating to say that the implementation of God's Shari'ah in Egypt will augur well for the whole area and will even affect other Islamic countries, such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and others.

Mr president, the Muslim Brotherhood is a trend of which people in every part of the world are well aware because they believe in a creed and not in an ideology. What they are demanding is not their own fabrication. It is ordered by God the almighty, by the sunnah of His prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, and, later, by the prophet's companions, may God be pleased with them all. The Muslim Brotherhood is the most active among the people in whatever it does. However, people may try to block this current, which is surging in every direction, they will achieve no results because God the almighty has pledged to protect it and God's pledge is no doubt valid.

Mr president, a people whose thoughts are preoccupied with ideas and views that are distant from their religion and creed cannot achieve any good. We hope, your excellency, that since you uphold democracy its benefits will reach all members of this people. We pray God that he may give you success and guide us all to the right path. Mr President, this is advice emanating from the heart of a believer who expects no reward or gratitude from anybody and is not afraid of oppression by anybody. God speaks the truth and guides one to the right path.

AL-'ARAB Interviews Ramadan on Iranian Aggression
JN251006 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpts] London, 24 Mar (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, has explained that the recent Iranian aggression against Iraq will not be the last and that certain parties, chief among which is the Zionist entity, participated in the planning of this aggression because the military cadres in Iran are not sufficiently qualified to prepare for this aggression in the manner in which it was carried out. In an interview with the London-based *AL-'ARAB* paper, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the Iraqi position is reassuring because it has 6 years of war experience behind it. He added that Iraq is against any withdrawals, concessions, or compromise settlements and that it is determined to reject all these things.

On the situation on the Al-Faw axis, the Iraqi first deputy prime minister said that the Iraqi forces succeeded in encircling the Iranian forces which entered Al-Faw and that any new Iranian advance has become impossible.

Taha Yasin Ramadan pointed out that the Iraqi plan on Al-Faw now consists of inflicting the heaviest possible losses on the Iranians and to make it impossible for them to reinforce their stand or even to react. What is required now is to turn this area into slaughterhouse for them.

On whether Iraq can go on with the war for another 6 years, the Iraqi first deputy prime minister said that Iraq will not give up an inch of its soil or any of its rights, no matter how minor, and that Iraq acts on this basis along the following two trends. The first is that Iraq considers the war as continuing. Therefore, it prepares its political, military, and economic programs in light of the fact that the war exists and will continue. The second trend is that Iraq tries to exploit all peace initiatives because it is working to attain peace and has no designs against the territories of others and its stand in this regard is not ambiguous. He said that the international community is well aware of this Iraqi stand.

On Iraq's stand toward the Syrian-Jordanian rapprochement, Taha Yasin Ramadan explained that this matter concerns the two parties alone. In spite of the fact that Jordan and Iraq have good relations, Iraq views this matter as concerning Jordan alone and this rapprochement is not a step on the road to a Syrian- Iraqi meeting.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the international community, particularly the two superpowers, have not fully assumed their duties. The two superpowers call for a halt to the war, carry out some activities, but have not done all that they could do.

Director on Possible Crossing of Shatt al-'Arab
JN241907 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Basra, southern Iraq]

[Excerpt] Iraq today hinted that its forces may cross the Shatt al-'Arab waterway toward the Iranian territory opposite the Al-Faw triangle. This allusion was made today by more than one source.

'Abd al-Jabbar Muhsin, political guidance director, told me today that the complete encirclement of the Iranians in the Al-Faw triangle is possible. This is a clear indication that it is possible to cross the Shatt al-'Arab waterway. He added: Our forces previously crossed the Karun River and managed to maintain several divisions across the river for 2 years. The director of political guidance, who talked to us in one of the headquarters of the VII Army Corps, stressed that boats are the only means of supply for the Iranians because all their bridges across the Shatt al-'Arab waterway have been destroyed.

Iraqi planes today dropped tens of thousands of leaflets over Iranian troops in the Al-Faw triangle, urging them to save themselves from an overall siege.

In a press statement published today, Staff Lieutenant General Sa'di Tu'mah al-Juburi said one can imagine the size of the catastrophe which will befall the Iranians if the Shatt al-'Arab waterway is blocked and the encirclement is completed. He stressed that many of the Iranian calculations were shattered and numerous surprises are in store.

Source Warns Iran Against Attacking Civilians
JN250725 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0655 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) — A responsible source in the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command has stated that Iraq will not permit the Iranian aggressors to strike at Iraqi residential areas and harm the security of its citizens. In a statement to the *AL-QADISIYAH* paper today, the source said that the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command hopes that the Iranian regime will realize the perils of this trend and the grave consequences that may be entailed in case of a recurrence of the cowardly act that the Iranian planes carried out when they raided residential areas in the Maysan Governorate last Saturday.

The Iranian enemy planes raided residential areas in Maysan Governorate last Saturday, martyring one 11-year old boy and wounding six civilians.

Paper Reports 'All Means' To Be Used Against Iranians
JN231114 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1014 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Mar (INA) — The newspaper *AL-THAWRAH* has affirmed that the Iraqis are determined to use all means and armament capabilities to wipe out the invading Iranian forces that have crossed the Shatt al-'Arab.

In an editorial today, the paper says that self-defense is a legitimate right recognized and stipulated by all earthly and divine laws, as well as by all prevailing international laws and norms. It adds: We are defending our homeland, independence, and the future of our generations against the invaders who crossed our waterway and desecrated our national soil. Although a clear international resolution was issued a few days ago calling for a halt to the fighting and a negotiated, peaceful, just, and comprehensive solution to the dispute, the Iranian regime insisted on further exposing its expansionist ambitions in Iraq's territory.

The paper points out that the entire world knows Iraq's firm, principled stand toward ending the war and its readiness to cooperate with any international resolution or effort aimed to end the fighting. The entire world also knows that the Khomeyni regime is the insurmountable obstacle before the peace efforts and that it is the side that insists on continuing the war.

The paper concludes: The favoritism and appeasement that some are practicing with the Iranian regime will only increase this regime's arrogance, recklessness, and insistence on its stupid course of aggression, expansion, and terrorism, which threatens international peace and security.

Joint Minutes Signed With Turkey; Ozal Departs

JN241150 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Mar (INA) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and his accompanying delegation left for home today at the end of a 3-day official visit to Iraq. The Turkish prime minister was seen off by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; and the ministers.

Iraq and Turkey today signed the sixth minutes of the Iraqi-Turkish joint Committee for Economic, Trade, and Technical Cooperation. Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad al-'Uraybi signed the minutes for Iraq while Turkish Finance and Customs Minister Kurtcebe Alptemocin signed for Turkey. The signing ceremony was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Turgut Ozal, Turkish prime minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; Dr Samal Majid Farid, minister of planning; and the members of the two countries' delegations to the Iraqi-Turkish joint Committee for Economic, Trade, and Technical Cooperation.

In a speech he delivered at the signing ceremony Taha Yasin Ramadan praised the advanced relations which exist between the two neighbor countries, and stressed that the signing of the minutes is a step forward on the road to promoting cooperation between the two countries which is the best formula for advanced bilateral relations in the region. Taha Yasin Ramadan emphasized that the Iraqi political leadership allots great importance to the distinctive relationship between Iraq and Turkey and takes great care to preserve it.

Replying, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal stressed his country's desire to implement the provisions of the joint minutes, particularly in the sphere of oil, the implementation of the second Iraqi oil pipeline through Turkey, the implementation soon of a railroad between the two countries, the construction of motorways between the two countries, and the operation of daily regular flights between the two countries.

Ozal said he hopes that peace will be established in the region, stressing that his country will exert all its efforts in this respect.

The joint minutes cover three fields of cooperation between Iraq and Iran. The first deals with foreign trade, money exchange, and transportation. The second deals with cooperation in the sphere of energy and electrical power, and the third deals with the expansion of the scopes of economic and technical cooperation. The joint minutes also cover cooperation in the sphere of overland and air transport, the establishment of a direct railroad to Turkey, and providing electricity to some Turkish areas.

Communiques Issued on Combat Operations

Communique No 2,160

JN231807 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Communique No 2,160 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 March 1986]

[Excerpt] The following is a roundup of operations for yesterday evening and today:

1. On the VII Army Corps front, our columns continue to inflict massive losses on the aggressors with their extensive firepower which rained deadly missiles upon them. Our forces closed all outlets to them so they will have to receive God's punishment.

2. Blinded by their grudges, the Iranian rulers are falling into the abyss of death. They are now drowned in their misery, looking for a straw to which they can cling. Therefore, they try to appear capable from time to time in the hope that they will deceive themselves if they cannot deceive anyone else. The results are always frustrating to them, leading them from bad to worse. Iraq's noose around them will continue to tighten, their losses will increase, and their coffers will become empty, making it impossible for them to feed their people. Seeking an opportunity for escape and hoping to feed their lying media machine, they mounted a series of attacks against peaks which had been liberated by our Armed Forces. The attacks occurred as follows:

a. At 0300 today [2130 GMT on 22 March] they attempted to attack Peaks 1,790 and 1,774.
b. They again returned to attack Peak 1,790.
c. They again tried to attack peak 1,774.
d. At dawn today, they attempted to attack Peak 1,412.

In all their attempts, they found the Iraqi men of the brave Republican guard waiting for them under the leadership of the Al-Siddiq Forces. These are men who believe in God and their principles, filled with the love of the people and of their great leader. They are concerned about the dignity of the homeland, eager to go to the fields of combat when the fighting rages. Their swords tireless and they are at the forefront of the procession of freedom. They always respond to the homeland's call in the south and in the north, saying: Here we are. Then they go to wipe out the apostate enemies.

Our men fought and the land fought with them. They perfected their night combat, turning our enemies into dead bodies on the road and into hordes fleeing from hell to hell. Only very few of them remained alive in order to tell Khomeyni about our victory.

Our brave forces completely dominated the scene. The land was preserved for its people and the frustrated were defeated. Only the Kurdish citizen remained to guard his land and crops, surrounded by the Republican guard, protecting the land, the crops, and the people.

These great men, the heroes of this epic are: Special Forces Staff Brigadier General Kamil Sajid, leader of the Al-Siddiq Forces; Staff Brigadier General Nasir Sa'id Tawfiq, commander of the Presidential Guard Brigade; Major Nabil Jadallah Mustafa, commander of a Presidential Guard unit; Major Mustafa Ahmad 'Abdallah, commander of a Presidential Guard unit; and Captain 'Isam Ahmad Ismma'il, commander of a Presidential Guard Unit.

Praise be to God. He has guided us along the right path and granted us victory. Long live the people, long live the leader, long live the Army.

3. Our Air Force has continued its attacks on the enemies, inflicting massive losses on their men and equipment in 328 combat missions. At 1400 [1100 GMT] today, it directed a successful strike against Khark Island after which our planes returned safely to base.

4. The heroes of our helicopter gunships flew 39 combat missions, inflicting massive losses on enemy soldiers and equipment and returning safely to base.

5. The criminal enemy shelled the suburbs of Madali, Khanaqin, Darband-e Khan, and Khurmal with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 March 1986

Communique No 2,161

JN241732 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Communique No 2,161 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 March 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The progress made by our country in all areas under our wise and brave leadership, thanks to the persevering efforts of our great people, is today embodied by our gigantic military power which is capable of protecting Iraq against the aggressors' evils and of destroying all attempts aimed at harming our country's security and sovereignty or obstructing our people's progress.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. On the VII Army Corps front: Units from the valiant northern column carried out several raids last night and today on Khomeyniite positions. Our brave fighters managed to destroy several enemy positions, weaponry, and equipment and inflict losses in personnel. They then returned safely to their positions.

Our valiant forces in the Al-Rashid and northern columns continued to deliver concentrated strikes against enemy troops. Strongly and continuously supported by our Air Force, Army helicopter gunships, artillery, and naval units, our forces inflicted massive losses on all combat axes.

2. Our heroic Air Force continued its daily annihilative raids on the Khomeyniite aggressors' positions and supply lines, inflicting heavy losses in 227 combat missions. Our eagles returned safely to base, praised be God.

3. The tough cavaliers of the helicopter gunships continued to dominate the battle skies, inflicting large losses on enemy personnel, weaponry, and equipment in 28 combat sorties. They then returned safely to base, praised be God.

4. One of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector spotted a group of enemy vehicles. It pounded them with concentrated artillery fire, destroying and burning 14 large vehicles loaded with personnel and ammunition.

5. The forces of the despotic, criminal clique shelled the suburbs of Khanaqin, Mandali, and Khurmal, as well as the Kanaru residential complex, with long-range artillery, wounding three civilians and damaging two civilian cars.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 March 1986

Prince Hasan Addresses Islamic Bank Meeting

JN221410 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Deputizing for His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan opened the 10th meeting of the Council of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank at the Palace of Culture at Al-Husayn Youth City this morning.

His Highness Prince Hasan delivered a speech in which he said: Your meeting today is held on this land which was throughout history a starting place for Islamic conquests and which carries the memory of the Muitah, Al-Yarmuk, and Hittin battles. He said that Zionism continues to challenge the Islamic nation by carrying out a series of attacks on holy Jerusalem and by attempting to obliterate its Islamic holy places. Jordan, he said, always warned against these attacks and schemes and frequently called on the international community to halt these measures.

His highness the crown prince asserted that the oppressive measures and the building of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as measures depriving their citizens of their natural resources, are aimed at forcing people to emigrate and at ridding the land of its legitimate owners. He said that owing to its historic link with the Palestine question, Jordan is dutybound to warn of the seriousness of the current situation and of its crucial dimensions.

Jordan is also dutybound to explain that these Israeli measures constitute continuous and intermingled steps to implement and intergrate Israeli schemes to cancel the Arab and Islamic presence which is deeply-rooted in the occupied territory.

His highness the crown prince said that the Palestinian people's cohesion and steadfastness vis-a-vis these measures are backed by the continued Jordanian, Arab, and Islamic support through various material and non-material forms. He added: Your meeting today has meanings and dimensions which exceed Islamic solidarity in development efforts and include bolstering the ability of our Islamic nation to confront the serious challenges posed to its culture, security, existence, and values. We need to unify our stand, pool our efforts, and extend planned assistance to the kinfolk in the occupied land to strengthen them, keep them steadfast on their land, and support their economic potentials and social institutions.

His highness praised the sincere efforts which resulted in establishing the Islamic Development Bank and those behind its accomplishments in the last 10 years. He voiced Jordan's thanks for the bank's continued support for Jordanian development efforts. He also voiced profound appreciation for the bank's policies which enabled it to attain an outstanding position among international and regional institutions and to support economic and social construction in the member states by methods which do not apply usury.

Dr Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali, head of the Islamic Development Bank, delivered a speech voicing thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn for sponsoring the conference.

Prime Minister Al-Rifa'i Receives USSR Ambassador

JN250730 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Mar 86 p 26

[Text] Amman PETRA — Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received USSR Ambassador in Amman Aleksandr Ivanovich Zinchuk in his office yesterday.

Joint Trade Committee Minutes Signed With Syria

JN241359 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Amman — The minutes of the meeting of the permanent joint Jordanian-Syrian committee stemming from the economic cooperation agreement organizing trade between Jordan and Syria were signed at the Ministry of Industry and Trade at noon today.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade under secretary has said that the minutes continued scientific bases for the exchange of trade between the two fraternal countries and for working to remove obstacles impeding bilateral trade exchange. He pointed out that the minutes defined the volume of trade which both sides aim to achieve this year. He said that trade exchange this year will be set at 20 million Jordanian dinars for each side. They also agreed to list goods that can be exchanged and accordingly to issue instructions to private and public enterprises in both countries. These lists would not prevent importation of other national goods should either country require them or should there be buyers for them.

Exportation To Be Encouraged To Reduce Deficit

JN221200 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Mar 86 pp 1, 18

[Text] Amman — *SAWT AL-SHA'B* — The Council of Ministers has decided to take a number of important measures to encourage exportation in accordance with the clear economic policy followed by the government to reduce the trade deficit. A number of bases were endorsed to adopt the principle of reciprocal deals, to protect local industries and open local markets for them, encourage exportation, exempt a percent of exporting companies' profits from income tax, exempt raw materials from customs fees or reduce these fees, and facilitiate measures for exportation and drawback.

The following are the details of the economic policy endorsed by the Council of Ministers:

1. Manage imports from countries importing from Jordan so that the trade balance will be in Jordan's favor. Such target countries are India, Indonesia, Romania, the PRC, and possibly some East Asian Countries in the near future.
2. Conclude equal deals and implement them either directly or through a contract with the other party.
3. Give countries which import Jordanian products priority in implementing projects through direct contracts in accordance with authorized prescriptions and competitive prices.
4. Guide the public and private sectors to import from these countries by following one of these methods:

a. Limit imports to those items which have good quality and competitive prices.

b. Adopt a quota system for countries which import from Jordan in order to increase imports from them.

5. Allow Jordanian exporters and industrialists to bring in raw materials under the status of temporary entry so goods may be locally manufactured and then exported. Experience has proven that specialized companies should run the exportation process and that manufacturers could not carry out this process as it requires special abilities and financing.

6. Expedite suggested amendments to the law on commerical centers. These amendments include the following:

a. Establish a fund for supporting exports.

b. Expand the objectives of the Commerical Centers Establishment so it becomes an establishment for developing exports and for giving the necessary guarantees in order to enable exporters to obtain the necessary financing for their business.

7. Issue clear instructions to the heads of Jordanian missions abroad, especially in countries importing Jordanin products and exerting efforts to maintain these markets and increase the quantities of their products, to continue to implement concluded deals, open new markets, and introduce Jordanian products. Also brief Jordanian missions on economic developments and decisions adopted by the government to support and invigorate the Jordanian economy.

The Measures

The practical measures to achieve most of these principles lie in establishing a special shareholder company called the Jordanian Company for Import and Export to which the Commercial Enters Establishment, the Phosphate Company, the Potash Company, the Jordanian Fertilizers Company, the Supply Ministry, the Civil Consumer Establishment, and the Military Consumer Establishment would contribute. This special shareholder company will be transformed into a general shareholder company after its success to give the private sector an opportunity to contribute.

The objectives of this company would be:

1. to implement equal deals which are concluded either directly or through a contract with others abroad;
2. make contracts with Jordanian producers to market their products abroad to increase the exportation of Jordanian products; and
3. advertise Jordanian goods abroad through possible means.

Visiting Saudi Finance Minister on Oil Prices, Aid

JN230930 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Mar 86 p 1

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat]

[Text] Amman — Saudi Finance Minister Muhammad Aba al-Khayl said on Saturday that Saudi Arabia will not make "any more sacrifices" by cutting its oil output in order to prop up world oil prices.

Mr Aba al-Khayl said Saudi Arabia had "always sought (within OPEC) to restore stability to oil prices at its own expense." "We have learned our lessons. This will not happen again," he told the *JORDAN TIMES*.

The Saudi minister said the Kingdom "has an interest in maintaining stable oil prices at reasonable levels." However, he said that Saudi interests clashed with the interests of other OPEC countries.

He explained that Saudi Arabia, which is estimated to hold 25 per cent of the world's oil reserves, "will continue to remain an oil exporting country which has interest in stable oil prices. Other countries whose reserves are limited have different interests than ours."

"This stability in prices should not be at our expense. This will not be repeated," he added.

Mr Aba al-Khayl said current oil prices were "not satisfactory for countries like Saudi Arabia. They (the tumbling prices) are also troublesome for oil importers."

On the impact of oil prices decline on the Saudi economy, Mr Aba al-Khayl said that despite the negative impact, the Kingdom was capable over the last decade to utilise its oil revenues to build the country's infrastructure and development by establishing modern projects and financial institutions in the agricultural, industrial and construction fields. He said these establishments are capable of "standing on their own."

He said that Saudi Arabia's development was continuing within the resources available to the Kingdom. He said the capital that has been invested in the Kingdom over the last few years was capable of backing this development.

On Saudi financial assistance to Arab countries, the finance minister said that such aid "would not be affected more than the Kingdom is affected." He explained that Saudi aid to Arab states and development in these states "are vulnerable to the same influences."

"The available resources will proportionately continue on the Arab level whether reduced or increased," he said.

Mr Aba al-Khayl, who met on Saturday with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, left for Riyadh later in the evening.

Karami on Efforts To End Current Crisis

NC241725 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Remarks by Prime Minister Rashid Karami in response to questions by unidentified correspondents following a meeting of the West Beirut Coordination Committee on 24 March — recorded]

[Text] [Karami] As everyone knows, the current phase through which we are passing is characterized by deadlock. This state of affairs is just as serious as any other situation or development that might happen to us. Social and economic factors are creating a heavy burden for all citizens. This causes one to ask: How can we conceivably reach a solution that will break this deadlock and bring our country out of its present painful situation?

Some people believe that salvation might come from outside Lebanon. However, it is our belief that the way out is contingent upon our own will and on what we can do ourselves to achieve national reconciliation through a plan of reform, be it the tripartite agreement or any other solution agreed upon by the Lebanese people with the support and help of fraternal Syria. It is on the basis of this premise that we have supported the tripartite agreement and have advocated that it be approved.

Until the desired solution is reached, we in the Coordination Committee will concern ourselves with ensuring the security of West Beirut. Therefore, we must continue our efforts to establish this security, thereby allowing citizens to enjoy stability and peace. This was the topic of our discussion today. We are seeking to implement previously agreed decisions. I am very hopeful that the measures that we have begun to implement will be continued until the security and stability which we desire have been achieved.

[Question] It has been observed that Israel's escalation of the situation in the south (?culminated) today in the violent shelling of Al-Nabatiyah. What are your comments on this?

[Karami] Such barbaric and Nazi practices can only be expected from the Israeli enemy. This enemy has not spared us from his harmful and avaricious acts for even 1 day. That is why we must resist and work for the enemy's unconditional and complete withdrawal as soon as possible.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, what do you have to say about Strauss' visit to the area?

[Karami] I have no knowledge of this visit. Therefore, I cannot appraise it.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, the deterioration in the security situation along the contact lines coincides with statements by former President Camille Sham'un. What is the objective behind these security flare-ups?

[Karami] We have, in fact, discussed this phenomenon. We all denounce these acts of aggression and violence, especially on the contact lines. Such activities sometimes transcend these lines and reach deep into residential areas. We cannot fathom any justification or reason for such actions.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, would it be correct to say that political endeavors have reached an impasse?

[Karami] We do not believe that the way for any good endeavor is blocked. We must continue our efforts and do everything necessary to put an end to the present situation, which has prompted our complaints.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, does a draft solution exist that might provide an alternative to the tripartite agreement?

[Karami] In my opinion, no serious draft solution has been proposed so far other than the tripartite agreement.

[Question] Thank you, Mr Prime Minister.

Al-Murabitun Reportedly Calls for Mobilization

NC241824 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1645 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] According to Sunnite sources close to the Al-Murabitun Movement, Sunnite youth in West Beirut have been requested to carry their weapons against the organizations controlling West Beirut. The same sources have noted a positive response to this Sunnite call for a general mobilization.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Delegation Arrives

NC241743 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1645 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] An Iranian delegation led by [Mohammad Hoseyn] Lavasani,director general of the Political Affairs Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, arrived in West Beirut today. The delegation members met with Shaykh Shams al-Din and Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah.

UK Ambassador Urges Release of Alec Collett

NC250809 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0545 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] John Gray, the British Ambassador to Lebanon, has called on the kidnappers of British journalist Alec Collett to release him, pointing out that a whole year has passed since his detention. In a press interview, Gray refused to comment on the details of the kidnapping, pointing out that a videotape that he had received in December showed Collet in apparently good health.

The British ambassador has also asserted his country's support for Lebanon, saying that Britain believes that any real and permanent solution to the Lebanese problem must come from the Lebanese themselves. He added: We are ready to assist in every way, either through the United Nations or through financial support for UNIFIL in south Lebanon.

Cuban Delegation To Visit South in April

NC241953 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Dr Hasan Yusuf, the official in charge of the Amal Movement's foreign relations, received the Cuban ambassador to Lebanon today. The ambassador gave Dr Yusuf a cable in reply to the one that Minister Nabih Birri had sent to the leadership of the Cuban Communist Party on the occasion of the third party conference of 4 February.

The Cuban ambassador briefed Dr Yusuf on the results of this conference, especially those that pertained to Lebanon, the Middle East, and the conferees' support for the heroic Lebanese national resistance and people until all Lebanese territory is liberated. The ambassador also informed Dr Yusuf that an official Cuban delegation will visit Lebanon in April. The delegation members plan to tour the southern area in order to acquaint themselves with conditions there, as well as with those in Lebanon in general.

Amal Captures Airport Lighting Saboteurs

NC221002 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Statement issued by the Fifth Section of the Amal Movement's Military Bureau on 22 March]

[Text] The airport security force of the Amal Movement today arrested members of a gang responsible for sabotaging the electric cables of the airport runway. Following the instructions of certain suspect security organs, the aim of this gang had been to render the runway inoperative.

Amal Official Involved

NC221514 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Investigations undertaken by responsible offices at Beirut International Airport a few days ago have revealed that it was Muhammad Hamiyyah, the official in charge of Amal's security apparatus, who had supervised the disconnection and theft of lighting cables from the airport runways with the intention of selling the copper components in them. According to sources, eyewitness reports were able to verify the means used to disconnect and transport these cables.

Further on Fighting in Beirut, Mountain Areas

Casualties Reported in Fighting

NC231812 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] The combat lines in Al-Shiyah in the southern suburb are currently the scene of fierce fighting in which various types of weapons have been employed. Neighboring residential areas are coming under indiscriminate fire from 81- and 120-mm mortars. A number of citizens have been wounded. It should be noted that the security situation along these lines deteriorated at 1700 today.

Army To Return Fire

NC242109 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2048 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Rocket launchers and artillery pieces located in Harat Hurayk are currently directing salvos at the Al-Hazimiyah and B'abda areas. The areas of Al-Hadath, Al-Fayyadiyah, Al-Hazimiyah, Sinn al-Fil, Jisr al-Basha, Tall al-Za'tar, and Al-Judaydah have also come under concentrated shelling.

We have just been informed that, in accordance with a directive issued by the Army Command's Guidance Directorate, the Lebanese Army is now returning fire with the appropriate weapons.

Army Uses Tanks Against Artillery

NC242146 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2131 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Although the rocket and shellfire directed at the eastern areas stopped at 2300 tonight, fighting involving the use of rockets and artillery is now raging along the combat lines in the markets area, Al-Tayyunah, Dar al-Kitab, and Al-Barid. The Lebanese Army is using tanks to silence the sources of fire. We have just received a report that at this very moment 'Ayn al-Rummanah is coming under mortar fire.

More Clashes Reported

NC242114 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Despite the calm that has prevailed along the capital's lines, there has been a security setback on the science college-al-Laylakah combat lines and along the old Sidon road. Clashes involving the use of various types of weapons are now taking place and residential areas nearby are being subjected to mortar and anti-aircraft gun fire.

Fighting on Mountain Combat Lines

NC250922 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Fierce fighting, involving various large- and medium-caliber weapons, has been taking place on the Al-Ma'rufiyah-Bsaba combat line since 0915 today. Shells fell in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and sniper fire hit 'Aytat, Dahr al-Wahsh, and Suq al-Gharb. A cease-fire was declared at 1015, after which the artillery shelling stopped. However, sporadic exchanges of machinegun fire continued. Meanwhile, guarded calm prevails on the combat lines in Beirut, the southern suburb, and upper Al-Matn.

Reportage on Reaction To Libyan-U.S. Clashes

Golan Tank Deployment Reported

NC241752 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] At a time when Israel is preparing to call up reservists following the declaration of the Golan Heights as a prohibited military zone, reports also indicate that Syria has deployed 2,000 tanks in the Golan area. Observers link the Syrian-Israeli tension to the maneuvers now being conducted by the U.S. fleet off the coast of Libya.

U.S. Actions Called 'Serious'

JN241434 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Gentlemen: U.S. war minister Weinberger and U.S. White House secretary Carter [as heard] are trying to justify the provocative actions of the U.S. war fleet in the Black Sea near Soviet territorial waters and in the Mediterranean Sea near Libyan territorial waters. They said that the United States wants to stress freedom of navigation in certain areas in the world. The other U.S. justifications also fall within the context of such weak and unbelievable pretexts and allegations.

How can the United States be concerned about freedom of navigation in international waters and air space when U.S. warplanes intercepted an Egyptian civilian plane and forced it to land in Italy in violation of the law? Why did the United States defend in international circles the Israeli air piracy against the Libyan passenger plane in international air space ner Cyprus?

How can the United States be concerned about the freedom of navigation ininternational waters when it defends Israeli warships' violation of the freedom of navigation in certain parts of the Mediterranean Sea?

Regarding the Middle East and the Mediterranean Sea, the United States spends more than $10 million everyday to arm Israel and to encourage it to launch aggressive wars, occupy and annex other countries' territories, violate international law, disobey the United Nations, and create a permanent state of tension and push the region to the brink of war. The United States also creates tension whenever it tries to dominate the region and faces natural resistance from Arab national liberation movments led by Syria and otehr Arab forces which adhere to the land and Arab rights.

U.S. actions in the Mediterranean Sea and Israeli threats to Syria constitute a flagrant act of terrorism and a serious provocation aimed at furthering the crisis and the explosiveness in the region. These actions do not serve peace or even pave the way for peace. Moreover, they will not enable the United States and Israel to impose capitulation on the Arabs. The Arabs will never relinquish their lands, their rights, and their freedom to make their own political decisions and establish relations with countries and sides which support them.

The United States will not succeed in dominating the region despite its continued efforts to spend money and mass troops. The masses, not the United States or Israel, will determine the geography and the history in this region. This is what the great Arab leader, Hafiz al-Asad, has said. What is said by leader Al-Asad is the only thing which works in this part of the world. The United States may hold dozens of provocative maneuvers or it may push the situation to the brink of conflict or to an actual conflict, but it will not achieve victory or its goals, because the will of the Arab struggle is there and nothing in the world can conquer the will of the people.

Libyan Claims, U.S. Denial Reported

JN250616 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli — Libyan television last night carried a communique announcing that the U.S. Air Force yesterday morning began violating Libyan air space over Libyan territorial waters in the Gulf of Sidra. The communique said that Libyan ground defenses confronted four U.S. planes, shooting down three of them; two at noon and one in the evening. The communique added that the three planes were seen falling into the sea.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes denied the shooting down of any U.S. planes and told journalists last night that the United States now considers Libyan forces as hostile forces. He said that his country reserves the right to take any additional measures required by the situation and that the U.S. forces are now in a state of readiness.

President Reagan held contacts with several U.S. politicians in this regard.

Al-Asad, Al-Qadhdhafi Talk

JN250913 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Damascus, 25 Mar (SANA) — A telephone contact took place last night between President Hafiz al-Asad and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The conversation dealt with the U.S. aggression against Libya.

Second Conversation

JN251129 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad contacted Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya, by telephone at noon today. They reviewed the developments of the U.S. aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Newspapers on U.S. Threats Against Syria, Libya

JN250920 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Is the New U.S. Alliance for Terrorism or for Aggression?" *AL-BA'TH* says: The United States nowadays is active in the Middle East to erupt new situations which, according to the U.S. viewpoint, pose a grave threat to the U.S. policy which seeks to transform the entire region into an area that will definitively and unquestionably be subjected to Washington. Manifestations of this hostile policy are evident in the following two scenarios which sum up U.S. designs and expose the hostile objectives they seek to attain. The first scenario is the events in the Sidra Gulf, the U.S. mobilization of forces off the Libyan coast, and the daily statements by U.S. officials to provoke the Libyan revolution and fabricate a confrontation with it at any cost. This scenario which is taking form through the claim that routine maneuvers are taking place in the Mediterranean in which all U.S. corps are participating but which are taking place beyond Libya's territorial waters, is an exposed attempt to drag the Libyan command into a confrontation with unpredictable consequences not only on security in the region but also on the entire world's security.

The second scenario is the tense situation on the northeastern front between Syria and the Zionist enemy and the threats Israeli war generals and Israeli officials are levelling at Syria with the overt backing of the United States.

AL-BA'TH adds: This scenario is taking form in the U.S.-Zionist political club under the pretext that the Syrian military power is increasing and that the Syrian stand conflicts with the political initiatives for which Washington has been paving the way in the region to force the Arabs to give up their rights and unconditionally accept U.S.-Zionist hegemony.

Within the framework of this policy, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has come closer to the region so that he may be in the midst of events and to reassure himself about the extreme state of alertness of the U.S. bases which are located in the countries of some NATO parties around the Mediterranean.

AL-BA'TH concludes: This feverish U.S. activity will scare no one either here in Syria or in Libya regardless of the saber-rattling or the flexing of muscles at sea to which we have grown accustomed because we remain committed to our rights and to defending them. We always take into consideration the price we have to pay for defending our rights against any aggressor force, even if this force is the United States.

Under the headlines "The U.S. Maneuvers and the Dimensions of the Imperialist Onslaught" *AL-THAWRAH* says: In order to frighten the Arab masses, the United States mobilizes its forces, and puts its aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean on alert believing that the heavy stick policy will terrorize these masses. However, these calculations clash with the basic reality that the Arab masses and their steadfast forces are determined to confront any imperialist-Zionist aggression. They are supported in their struggle by the forces of peace and socialism in the world, particularly by the friendly USSR which has announced its support for Syria and Libya and has emphasized that those who seek to deal a military blow to Syria must know that the USSR has more than once stressed its support for Syria which is confronting U.S. and Zionist machinations and rejects blackmail and military pressure against it.

Soviet Warnings of U.S. Aggression Reported

JN250641 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0415 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow — NOVOSTI has affirmed that recent events in the Middle East indicate that the two strategic allies, the United States and Israel, intend to expand the policy of military adventures in this region. The agency warned Washington and Tel Aviv against any act of military aggression against Syria. At the same time, the agency renewed the USSR's absolute support for Syria in its heroic stands against the imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

Moscow also denounced yesterday's U.S. attack on the Libyan coast and ships, describing it as an act of provocation and aggression.

Al-Kasm: Arab Task To Confront Israel

JN241324 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Damascus — Under the patronage of Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, the Arab conference on plant protection opened here today. The conference is being held by the Arab agricultural engineers federation in cooperation with the Arab society for the protection of plants from 24 to 27 March in the Al-Mutanabi Hall in hall in the Meridian Hotel in Damascus.

Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm delivered a speech at the opening of the conference in which he said: It is my pleasure on this occasion to express the special attention we give in this country to every effort and activity related to agriculture and all its aspects.

The prime minister added: Our ambitions, aspirations, and achievements will face international challenges in the absence of joint Arab action or effective Arab solidarity against the Zionist enemy and its allies. He said: Syria, which is convinced that the major danger is Israel, has always said that the united Arab efforts should always be geared toward confronting this danger. Israel and the United States view the Arab territory and resources as a target for expansion and an area that should be controlled by them. Every now and then they try to advance step by step toward this objective.

The prime minister said: We in Syria believe that the problems and crises in the Arab world are created by the United States and Israel. We also believe that when the political and military priority in united Arab strategy becomes the confrontation of Israel and its supporters, all problems and crises will be solved very quickly because the rifle will then be aimed at those who create these problems. The Arabs have no interest in opening political or military fronts other than the front with the Israeli enemy.

Dr al-Kasm added: The people of this country who assume great defensive burdens in addition to economic burdens, and who enjoy a deep political and economic awareness, are determined not to reconcile with capitulatory, defeatist, and divisionist dimensions in this area. This people are well prepared to deal with all aspects of and dangers created by Zionism and U.S. policies. Syria has proved many times the credibility of its views and the soundness of its stands. It is now ready more than ever before to confront the enemy which dreams of aggression. This front line of Arab force represented by Syria will remain the political and military barrier which cannot be bypassed by Israel and those who support its move to the depth of the Arab homeland. Every Arab effort regardless of its nature, efforts such as you are now exerting in your conference, will remain a road toward solidarity, cooperation, and unity of thought and action in the Arab homeland.

Reportage on Response to U.S. Action Toward Libya

Action Termed 'Self-Defense'

TA251117 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The prime minister has said that the United States is entitled to defend sea routes. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that a communique issued by the Prime Minister's Office states that in Mr Peres' opinion Libya is the spearhead of international terrorism and is a source of violence and a threat to its surroundings. Determination and firm action against threats and terrorist attacks are the basis for ensuring peace in the world.

Replying to a question, the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, Avi'ezer Pazner, stated that Israel regards the U.S. reaction as an act of self-defense. Sources in the Foreign Ministry told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that Israel is encouraged by the firm position taken by the United States.

Moshe Levi Says Action 'Appropriate'

TA251302 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1254 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Here is the reaction by the chief of staff, Lieutenant General Moshe Levi, to the events in the Gulf of Sidra. The chief of staff has said: I must say that the U.S. reaction to Libya's threats is one that is appropriate for terrorism. Terrorism must be fought and not surrendered to. This was said by Chief of Staff Lt Gen Moshe Levi.

Officials React to Morocco's King Hassan's Proposal

TA241820 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Reacting to King Hassan of Morocco's proposal for a summit meeting between an Arab leader and Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to explore Israel-Arab peace prospects, senior officials here in Jerusalem say it has always been Israel's position to welcome direct talks with any Arab leader. The Moroccan monarch made his suggestion in an interview published today in the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-SIYASAH*.

U.S. Reportedly Urging Arms Sales to Iraq

TA211249 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Independent reports published in London say that the United States has been quietly urging Israel to sell arms to Iraq to help that country hold its own in the Gulf War with Iran. Details in this report from David Grant, in London:

[Begin Grant recording] Whilst the Reagan administration has remained neutral in the 6-year-old Gulf War, and publicly would perfer neither side to win, there are clear indications, according to reports in London, that it sees an Iranian victory as a greater threat to regional stability. Consequently, the United States is said to have been actively, though quietly, encouraging an arms deal between Iraq and Israel. Even though both countries publicly are bitter enemies, Washington has noted they have a common enemy: Syria. The reason suggested by London sources for America's interest in seeing a successful outcome to initial contacts between Iraq and Israel include the growing concern that President Saddam Husayn's government cannot resist Iran's military pressure on Iraq indefinitely. There's also the fear that with Iran having succeeded in getting a toe-hold in Iraq, they may attack Kuwait next. [Word indistinct] all added to that the recognition that Iraq appears to have dropped its overt support for Arab terrorists since Abu Nidal left Baghdad 3 years ago and, finally, intelligence reports that the Soviet Union is providing Ayatollah Khomeyni's government with arms and ammunition through North Korea and possibly Czechoslovakia. Israel, which the reports claim used to supply Iran with arms, is said to have stopped doing so at America's request. Iraq has expressed interest in Israel's drone, the [word indistinct] low-flying unmanned reconnaissance aircraft which, fitted with TV cameras, can beam pictures of battlefields to a ground station. There is also an added possibility that Iraq, which has Soviet-made equipment, may ask Israel for some of its Soviet arms captured in various wars. This is David Grant, in London. [end recording]

Israel's Foreign Ministry has no comment and the Defense Ministry says its policy is not to comment on arms sales and contacts with foreign governments.

Rabin on Citizenship for Golan Heights Druze

TA241231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1221 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] The defense minister has said that if the Golan Heights Druze reject the offer of Israeli citizenship, they will be treated like foreign citizens residing in the State of Israel. Minister Rabin said Israel is not forcing the Druze in the Golan Heights to accept Israeli citizenship. He called upon them not to be tempted by the statements being made across the border because the Golan Heights are an inseparable part of the State of Israel and will remain so. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the defense minister was speaking at a ceremony in the village of Daliyat el-Karmel.

Shamir, UN Under Secretary General Discuss Issues

TA240755 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Mar 86 p 3

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding, who has replaced Brian Urquhart, met yesterday with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and informed him that he met with various elements in connection with the Jewish hostages in Beirut.

Shamir expressed his satisfaction and said that Israel considers it important that an international body is taking an interest in the release of these Jews. Shamir protested to Goulding over the talks which politicians and UN members held with PLO leader

Yasir 'Arafat, thereby increasing his prestige and strengthening his position. On the subject of UNIFIL, Goulding repeated the proposal to change the forces's deployment. Shamir expressed his opposition to this, saying that for security reasons Israel is interested in maintaining the security strip as the best buffer zone for ensuring relative quiet among the northern border.

Shamir, Levi Meet in Bid To Overcome Differences

TA231804 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir conferred today with Minister David Levi within the framework of attempts to reach an understanding within the Herut Movement. The meeting was short, and Yitzhaq Shamir's associates said that many more meetings will take place in the next few days in a bid to resolve the situation that has been created in the Herut Movement as a result of the party convention.

Leadership Reported Awaiting Palestinian Initiative

TA241216 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
22 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Israeli Minister without portfolio 'Ezer Weizman has expressed the belief that Israel should respond with a reciprocal initiative if the Palestinian leadership should put forward any proposal for talks with Israel.

Weizman added that the ball is now in the Palestinian court and we are awaiting an initiative from the Palestinian leadership. He went on to say that this leadership has the support of the Palestinian people and no one has the right to appoint a leadership for the Palestinians.

Weizman stressed that as soon as the Palestinians accept the UN resolutions and recognize Israel, he will be ready to negotiate with them.

Al-Asad Sets Terms For Dialogue With Fatah

TA241302 Jerusalem AL-MITHAQ in Arabic
23 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Damascus — Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has set Syria's conditions for launching a dialogue with members of the Fatah Central Committee. The most important of these conditions, to be announced by the PLO's official leadership in a formal statement in 'Arafat's name, are as follows:

1. The PLO statement should praise the Syrian forces for their role in the 1982 war.

2. The statement should express the official leadership's apology for the media campaign against Syria since the PLO's evacuation from Beirut.

3. The statement must laud the Syrian position in rejecting capitulatory and eliminative solutions and affirm Syria's national role in Lebanon in not allowing the establishment of sectarian ministates.

4. The statement must condemn reactionary Arab efforts to pressure the PLO to recognize Resolution 242.

Amal Militia Reportedly 'Stops' Terrorists

TA241825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] The Amal militia has reportedly stopped four terrorists from Sidon from crossing the border into Israel. The terrorists were stopped near Tyre. The report was first published in the weekend editions of Beirut newspapers. The terrorists were identified as members of the Palestine Liberation Army-the South Lebanon Command.

3 Killed, 24 Wounded in ASL Shelling in South

TA241510 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Today 3 people were killed and 24 wounded in the Shi'ite village of Al-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon in a shelling by cannon of the army of southern Lebanon [ASL]. The shells fell on the outskirts of the crowded market in Al-Nabatiyah. The leader of the Shi'ite Amal militia in the south, Mahmud Faqih, has threatened that his men will take revenge by shelling Israeli settlements and installations. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht points out that ASL soldiers shelled Al-Nabatiyah because this morning 18 katyusha rockets were fired at their positions in the Al-'Ayshiyah area. Nobody was hurt in that shelling.

Responsible Soldier Ordered Jailed

TA241740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] The general staff of the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] says today's murderous shelling of the Shi'ite village of Al-Nabatiyah was carried out in contradiction to a specific order by the ASL commander, General Lahd, banning the shelling of populated settlements. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht was told that Gen Lahd has instructed that the soldier responsible for the shelling be jailed.

IDF Sources React

TA241945 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1940 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] IDF sources wish to make it clear that the shelling of the town of Al-Nabatiyah today was carried out by a local army of southern Lebanon [ASL] commander who had not obtained approval for this move. General Lahd has instructed that the officer be jailed. The sources said that the ASL's policy of not striking at civilian settlements has not changed.

DAVAR Interviews Egypt's Lutfi After Cairo Killing

TA211206 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Mar 86 p 1

[Report on interview with Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi by Arab affairs correspondent Dan Avidan, in Cairo on 20 March]

[Text] Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi told Davar last night that the Egyptian Government deeply regrets the killing of Eti Tal-Or and the wounding of three other Israelis in Cairo, adding that his government is doing its best to find the perpetrators of the deed and punish them.

Dr Lutfi conferred last night with Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir after the latter met with Egyptian President Mubarak, Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid, and Tourism Minister Fu'ad Sultan.

The Egyptian prime minister told *DAVAR* that he had a good and friendly talk with Minister Sharir and that he had conveyed his greetings to Prime Minister Peres through Sharir. Dr Lutfi said that he emphasized to Sharir the Egyptian position that the latest incident in Cairo must not adversely affect Egyptian-Israeli relations or the efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

Dr Lutfi pointed out that he discussed with Minister Sharir ways to encourage tourism from the United States, Europe, and the Far East to Egypt and Israel. The two also discussed eliminating the difficulties in order to promote tourism from Egypt to Israel. The Egyptian prime minister said that no date has been set yet for the visit by the Egyptian tourism minister to Israel, "but he will come to Israel soon."

As for the searches the Egyptian security forces are conducting to find Eti Tal-Or's assassins, Dr Lutfi said that the authorities have as yet been unable to capture the assailants and do not know their identity.

The all-out effort to locate the killers and put them on trial will continue, Dr Lutfi said. "What is most important is that the Israeli public realize that the Egyptian Government deeply regrets this incident and will continue to do everything in its power to bring the murderers to trial, the Egyptian prime minister concluded. [no end quotation marks as published]

5,000 Palestinian Refugees From Egypt Due To Arrive

TA230735 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Mar 86 p 1

[Report by Yosi Melman]

[Text] Within an extremely short time Israel is to take in about 5,000 Palestinian refugees, who are to be transferred from Egypt to the Israeli zone in Rafah, after the construction of the apartments intended for them has been completed. A final agreement on this was achieved in talks between representatives of the two countries in Cairo last week.

In the talks, which were also conducted within the framework of the joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee, it was decided that a detailed timetable for the arrangement for the transfer of the inhabitants of the Canada refugee camp will be determined within an extremely short space of time. Egypt will finance the erection of the apartments for them. The arrangement is as laid down in the peace agreement between the two countries.

Labor Excludes Southern Gaza From 'Security Areas'

TA250629 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Mar 86 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Roy Isacowitz]

[Text] Tel Aviv — The committee preparing the Labour Party's platform for the forthcoming national convention has decided to exclude the southern Gaza Strip from the "security areas" to remain in Israel's hands after a peace agreement with Jordan.

The committee also decided during a stormy meeting on Sunday night, to omit mention of the Camp David accords in the clause dealing with interim autonomy measures. The clause was reduced to a single sentence reading: "Israel will initiate and discuss interim measures on the path to peace."

Several members gave notice during the meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister Peres and Defence Minister Rabin, that they would appeal the committee's decisions at the convention.

The committee split between hawks and doves on the issue of security borders, with the latter arguing against border specifications. The hawks prevailed, and the platform will specify the north-western area of the Dead Sea, the Jordan Valley, Gush 'Ezyon, and the environs of Jerusalem as remaining under Israeli sovereignty.

Rabin's demand that the platform not mention interim arrangements was overruled.

Strenuous debate is expected at the conference on the status of settlements in the occupied territories following a peace arrangement. A clause guaranteeing the "continued existence and safety" of the settlements after peace, was retained despite strong opposition.

Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hilel, a leading hawk, gave notice that he would appeal the decision to omit a clause saying that "in the event of a peace arrangement, the refugee problem will find its solution."

The resolution as a whole differs from its immediate predecessors in that it deals with "peace with Jordan and the Palestinians" as a single entity. In its final version it is consistent with Peres's demand that it be sufficiently broad to encompass all options and not create "unilateral facts."

In one of the document's most important clauses, the Labour party commits itself to initiating "wide-ranging discussions with Palestinians who recognize Israel and reject terror." It does not exclude any Palestinians on the basis of their membership in a political group and does not restrict potential partners to residents of the West Bank and Gaza.

MK Mikha Harish, chairman of the diplomatic committee, told *THE JERUSALEM POST* that there was no significance in the fact that the phrase "territorial compromise" did not appear in the resolution. The party's commitment to territorial compromise was implicit in many of the clauses and the need for the phrase itself had simply not arisen, he said.

Hebron Settlers Detained for Rioting at Holy Site

TA250859 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Three settlers living in the Jewish Quarter of Hebron and Qiryat Arba' were detained last night after rioting at the Makhpelah Cave. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that several settlers arrived at the Makhpelah Cave last night after midnight and demanded entry. The soldiers guarding the place prevented their entrance, at which point the settlers, who were apparently drunk, attacked them. They were detained by the Hebron police. The interrogation will be completed today, after which they will be tried.

France's Chirac Says Foreign Policy Not To Change

TA241151 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has made it clear that there will be no change in French policy towards Israel in the wake of the appointment of a new government. He made the statement in a telephone conversation with Israel's Ambassador to France 'Ovadya Sofer. Sofer this morning gave reporter Michel Zlotowsky this account of the conversation:

[Begin recording][Sofer] Yes, I had a short conversation over the phone with Mr Chirac, who assured me that the relations with Israel will continue and that there will be no changes in France policy towards Israel.

[Zlotowsky] Mr Ambassador, did you discuss with Prime Minister Chirac the election of a certain amount of representatives from the National Front, the far right-wing party of Jean Marne Le Pen?

[Sofer] No, I haven't discussed this issue. It's purely internal and I don't intend to discuss these things with him.

[Zlotowsky] It was said, Mr Ambassador, that you were one of the first embassies to be reached by Jacques Chirac after his election.

[Sofer] Yes, this is a fact. Mr Chirac reached me over the phone and I was the first ambassador to talk to him after his nomination as prime minister.

[Zlotowsky] This can be regarded as a political gesture, no?

[Sofer] With Jacques Chirac I've had in the last 2 years very close relationship and I think Mr Chirac was anxious to dissipate the negative impression that certain media in Israel attributed to him. [end recording]

More PLO Representation in Spain Not To Affect Ties

TA250636 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
25 Mar 86 p 1

[By diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Excerpt] Israeli officials believe that Spain's relations with the PLO will not be substantially altered despite the weekend announcement in Madrid on the upgrading of the organization's representation in the Spanish capital.

Senior Foreign Ministry sources in Jerusalem adopted a cautious approach to the Madrid move. But they are convinced that it will not have a deleterious impact on relations between Spain and Israel.

The sources said that the announcement by Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez upon his return to Madrid from a visit to Tunis merely "formalized" an existing situation.

ALGERIA

Foreign Ministry Statement Affirms Support for Libya

LD251249 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Following the deterioration of the situation in the Gulf of Sidra, a spokesman of the Algerian Foreign Ministry made a statement in which he said that Algeria has been following with great concern the implementation of the American threats against Libya, a matter which will lead to a dangerous escalation in the Mediterranean and to a lack of security and stability in this sensitive area.

The flexing of muscles against the fraternal Libyan people constitutes a serious development in a dispute of legal character that should be solved by peaceful means in accordance with the UN Charter which states that the use of force was rejected and unacceptable, particularly when the issue affects the preservation of world peace and security.

Algeria wishes to reiterate its stand on the side of Libya in defense of the sanctity of its sovereignty and gains and calls at the same time for an immediate end to all forms of aggression and for refrainment from pursuing an adventure with consequences that would be difficult to control.

Bendjedid Receives Phone Call From Al-Qadhdhafi

LD242230 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpt] President Chadli Bendjedid received a telephone call this evening from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

FLN Delegation To Attend CPCZ Congress

LD250007 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Algeria will be represented at the 17th CPCZ Congress. A delegation from the FLN party, led by Mr Mohamed Abada, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee, left Algiers today for Prague.

Further Reportage on Visit of Tunisian Prime Minister

Joint 'Press Statement'

LD230326 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Mar 86

["Text" of Joint Algerian-Tunisian "press statement" issued in Algiers on the 22 March visit to Algeria of a Tunisian Socialist Destour Party delegation]

[Text] At an invitation of the FLN Party, a delegation of the Tunisian Socialist Destour Party Political Bureau led by that party's secretary general, Mohamed Mzali, visited Algeria on 22 March. President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN Party secretary general, received the Tunisian delegation led by Mohamed Mzali, and which was composed of Socialist Destour Party Political Bureau members Beji Caid Essebsi, Hedi Bekkouche, and Mohamed Chaker.

The Socialist Destour Party delegation held political discussions with a FLN Party delegation under the chairmanship of Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Political Bureau member in charge of the FLN Party Central Committee Permanent Secretariat. The delegation was composed of brothers Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Political Bureau member and foreign affairs minister; Bachir Rouis, Political Bureau alternate member and information minister; and Messaoud Ait Chalal, FLN Party Central Committee member, and Algerian ambassador to Tunisia.

The two delegations held an extensive dialogue on the prospects of building a Greater Arab Maghreb by relying upon the principles cited in the treaty of fraternity and concord signed between Algeria, Tunisia, and Mauritania. The two delegations expressed their satisfaction at the distinctive quality of cooperation existing between the two peoples and countries.

In order to guarantee a continuation of the political dialogue which the two parties have initiated, it was decided that the working group which met today will hold periodic meetings. The next meeting will be held in Tunis next May.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Affirms Confrontation To Continue

LD251220 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1210 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Mar (JANA) — Replying to the White House statements that the American military provocations and maneuvers will continue until the beginning of April in the Mediterranean, the brother commander of the revolution told JANA: We also declare that our brave confrontation will also continue and that the Jamahiriyah is not defending only itself at this moment but the entire Arab nation and its future.

Al-Qadhdhafi Briefs Syria's Khaddam on Events

LD251145 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1127 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Mar (JANA) — The brother commander of the revolution this morning received Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the Syrian vice president, who arrived as envoy of the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The brother commander acquainted the Syrian presidential envoy with the latest developments in the situation concerning the American aggression on the Libyan Arab people.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Bendjedid Discuss Current Situation

LD242216 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] A telephone contact took place today between the brother leader of the revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid concerning the developments of the current international situation.

Foreign Secretary Sends Note to United Nations

LD250955 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0935 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Mar (JANA) — The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has sent a note to the UN Secretary General. The following is the text of the note:

His excellency, the UN secretary general — New York. I wish to draw your attention to the repeated American military provocative maneuvers off Libyan Arab shores, the last of which being the maneuvers which the American Government has declared to have begun yesterday 23 March 1986.

The repeated maneuvers and threats against the sovereignty of Arab Libya affirm the United States' premeditated aggressive intentions on the sovereignty, freedom and security of Libyan Arab territorial land and water.

As Libya faces up to this premeditated determination by the United States to commit aggression, it believes that the peace of the region and indeed of the whole world is being exposed to a great risk at the hands of the United States.

While drawing the world community's attention through you to this dangerous provocative escalation of the U.S. military exercises, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah issues a warning against the dangerous consequences of this provocation and finds itself as of today forced to prepare to implement Article 51 of the UN Charter; the responsibility falls completely on the United States.

While compelled to adopt this stand, the Jamahiriyah affirms its conviction that the U.S. veto impeded the responsibility of the Security Council which has become incapable of playing its role as protector of world security and peace, and, consequently, Libya has no choice but to protect its security and peace by relying on is own capabilities. Please circulate this memorandum to member-countries and distribute it as one of the United Nations General Assembly documents.

Sudanese Chief of Staff Arrives in Tripoli

LD251116 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1057 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Mar (JANA) — Lieutenant General Muhammad Tawfiq Khalil, member of the Sudanese Transitional Military Council and chief of staff of the Armed Forces people arrived in Tripoli this morning at the head of a delegation on a visit to Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He was met at Tripoli International Airport by Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and a number of Libyan Arab Armed Forces officers and members of the Sudanese Embassy in Tripoli.

Lt Gen Khalil told JANA that the visit to Jamahiriyah in these circumstances reflects the Sudanese people's stand by their fraternal Libyan Arab people against U.S. aggression affirming Sudan's readiness to place all their capabilities under the disposal of the Libyan Arab people in the face of the U.S. imperialist aggression.

Sudanese Defense Minister Cables Support

LD251442 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab forces, has received a cable from Staff Major General 'Uthman 'Abdallah, member of the Sudanese Transitional Military Council and minister of defense, affirming the Sudanese people's stand in one trench with their brother Libyan Arab people in their bold confrontation against the treacherous, terrorist American aggression.

Major General 'Uthman 'Abdallah said in his cable: We have received with great concern the news of the imperialist aggression attempt against the sovereignty of the Jamahiriyah, our sister country. We affirm to you our full support and complete stand by you as you face up to the arrogance of neo-imperialism and defend the sovereignty of your country which is part f the sovereignty of the Arab and Islamic nation. I request you to convey to the brothers in the Jamahiriyah our support for them in one trench in defense of our nation and our glory.

Paris Envoy: NATO Bases Considered Enemy Objectives

LD251620 Paris Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The aftermath of the American-Libyan conflict: The Libyan ambassador in Paris, Al-Khudayri said to AFP a while ago that the American and Atlantic bases of NATO are considered as enemy objectives from now on. Al-Khudayri also said that the American aggression had endangered international air and sea traffic.

Reportage on Events in Gulf of Sidra

U.S. Aircraft Downed, Surt Shelled

LD242120 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2103 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Brothers and sisters we have just received the following information: This morning the U.S. Air Force began violating the airspace over the Libyan Arab territorial waters in the Gulf of Sidra. Our air defenses combatted it and shot down three aircraft, two of which were shot down today at noon and the third was shot down this evening. The three aircraft fell into the sea.

At about 1320 the U.S. fleet shelled the suburbs of the city of Surt with rockets. Al-Fatih for ever and the revolutionary struggle will continue!

Live Ammunition Exercises

LD242209 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] The vanguard of the armed people carried out tactical maneuvres using live ammunition. The maneuvres were attended by Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, and the chiefs of staff and commanders. In these maneuvres, the vanguard of the armed people asserted its high combat efficiency and advanced ability in using modern weapons. By hitting the targets in these maneuvers, the extent of the combat potential of the vanguard of the armed people was proven.

TASS Cited on U.S. 'Provocations'

LD242340 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] The Soviet news agency TASS in its news bulletin today announced the provocative military campaigns of the U.S. Administration against the Libyan Arab people.

The agency noted that these campaigns, which are directed at the Jamahiriyah, seek to violate its sovereignty and to make it bend from its unchanging and principled stands of opposition to imperialism. It said that these provocations also seek to frighten the Libyan Arab people, who are following an anti-imperialist line.

Call To Destroy U.S. Interests

LD250011 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2328 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] This the Voice of the Greater Arab Homeland, the voice of the Revolutionary Committee. To the masses of our Arab nation, to the revolutionary force in our nation: The fighting is (?now on) against U.S. imperialism. [passage indistinct] the Libyan Arab people is now standing on the contact line which is ablaze, fighting to defend Arab dignity and existence.

The fire of war against U.S. imperialism and Zionism [words indistinct]. The Arab (?masses) should (?destroy) U.S. interests and targets everywhere in the Arab homeland so that the United States would know, through the blazing fire destroying its interests and targets, that this nation rejects humiliation and debasement and refuses to stay silent if part of the Arab homeland is exposed to aggression.

The brave Libyan Arab people are now standing with their heads high in the battlefield, in the air, land, and sea. The Libyan people have sworn to make the evil deeds of the aggressors their own punishment, drag the U.S. nose through the mud, shake the earth under the feet of imperialism, and teach the United States a lesson worse than the lesson of Vietnam.

U.S. arrogance and the madness of its President makes them think that the aggression against the Libyan Arab people would be like a picnic and an easy operation. But the U.S. fleet in the Mediterranean is now within the range of our weapons and U.S. aircraft are now food for our weapons.

We will fulfill our promise, which we promised ourselves, to turn the Mediterranean into a sea of fire, to strike mercilessly, and to fight everything that [words indistinct].

U.S. Receives 'First Slap'

LD250051 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2353 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Arab revolutionaries! Free revolutionaries everywhere! America, the enemy of the peoples, murderer of children and women, maker of evil and destruction everywhere! America has come with its arrogance and haughtiness and (?puffed cheeks) and (?flexed muscles) in order to (?intimidate) and commit acts of brigandage and to try to commit aggression in the waters of the Jamahiriyah. It was confronted with a burning Arab fire and received the first slap against its brazen face.

Arab revolutionaries, revolutionaries everywhere! Are there any of the world's nations that have not suffered wounds as a result of America's aggression and crimes? Are there any of the world's nations whose resources have not been plundered by America and whose livelihoods have not been stolen by America? Is there an inch of people's lands that does not bear the fingerprint of American crime and aggression and brigandage? Has there been any crime committed by the Zionist enemy which has not received American permission or arms and money and support? Let it then be the hour of [words indistinct].

'Sea of Blood' Promised

LD250153 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0051 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] We, the masses of the basic people's congresses in the city of Sibratah, while condemning the U.S. fleet's aggression and its violation of the Gulf of Sidra and our territorial waters [words indistinct].

The masses of this city assembled at their battalions [paramilitary groupings] on this night and are now ready to move on the Gulf of Sidra. They stress their intention to form suicide squads [words indistinct] the U.S. enemy and teach him a lesson in bravery. The masses stress that the people are not afraid of the U.S. fleets whatever their power might be. They stress their intention to transform the waters of the Gulf of Sidra into a sea of blood. March forward.

The Masses of the Basic People's Congress in Sibratah Center; 7 October; (?Al-Alalqah); Al-Nil; Al-Khatatbah; [place names indistinct].

Executions of U.S. 'Spies' Urged

LD250213 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0054 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Voice of the revolutionary committees]

[Text] This is directed at the masses of our Arab Nation. The brave men, the protectors of our backs who are standing firmly at the northern gate of the Jamahiriyah and at the Line of Death in the Gulf of Sidra, have added to the Arab glories today. They confronted the U.S. aircraft and made the sky in which they flew a place of hell and stretches of fire. The U.S. aircraft retreated in the face of the Arab eagles, and three U.S. aircraft have been destroyed thus far.

O masses of our Arab nation, we are now looking forward to a pan-Arab earthquake, so that when the morning comes, the whole world will see the rumbling of our nation's masses from the Gulf to the ocean, in every city and village, in the urban and desert regions, while they are racing toward the battlefield and crowding toward the war against the United States.

The oil which the United States exploits and usurps, should now be destroyed. The U.S. bases in the Arab homeland should now be stormed. The U.S. spies pushed forward as experts and consultants should now be executed wherever they might be in the Arab homeland.

'Abd al-Nasir's Egypt in 1956 fought on the side of its people and the Arab nation. Let the war against the United States now be the opportunity to destroy that nation by the hands of the Arab nation, at the forefront of which stands the brave Libyan Arab people. Let every border of the Arab homeland, from the Line of Death in the Mediterranean, be a border of death at which the skulls of the arrogant imperialists will be broken. Let the oath of this nation's men and women be that no invader should return home safely and that no Arab grain of sand will fall under the invaders' feet. Glory be for the Arab nation. Glory and pride for the Arab land. Sovereignty and glory for the Arab sky. Immortality for the brave Arab men who shot down and destroyed the U.S. aircraft.

Revolutionaries in SFRY 'Suicide Soldiers'

LD250407 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0341 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Brother leader and revolutionary, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi: The Libyan Arab revolutionary forces in Yugoslavia, while closely following the U.S. 6th Fleet's actions against the Libyan Arab People and their historic leadership in order to destroy the great civilized achievements in the land of the Great Al-Fatih, and in order to silence the voice which says no to terrorism, no to U.S. hegemony, and no to the power of terrorism and Reagan's arrogance, declare that we are suicide soldiers with the intention of hitting U.S. interests throughout the world. We stress that we will transform our words into action, which will burn and destroy the U.S. terrorist.

Leader, we declare our firm commitment and intention to burn and destroy whatever this Arab revolutionary force can reach in order to strike U.S. targets wherever they might be. [sentence as heard] Leader, we are able to do this. March forward. The revolutionary struggle will continue against the forces of terrorism and injustice.

U.S. Planes Attack Civilian Ship

LD250940 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0927 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Mar (JANA) — U.S. fleet aircraft yesterday attacked a civilian Libyan ship and dropped bombs on it but they did not hit it.

Civilian Planes Used As 'Cover'

LD251036 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1024 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Mar (JANA) — Aircraft of the American fleet off Libyan shores have been pursuing civilian aircraft flying from Europe to Africa to use them as cover and a means for approaching Libyan air space. Informed sources have affirmed to JANA that such actions will expose the safety of civilian aircraft in this region to a serious threat for which, and for its repercussions, the United States would be fully responsible.

Anti-U.S. Demonstration in Banghazi

NC251117 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0944 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Statement by the unidentified spokesman of "the masses of Banghazi municipality" during an anti-U.S. demonstration in Banghazi — live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the name of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, the maker of the era of the masses, the defender of the oppressed, and the subduer of the oppressors. The masses of the basic people's congresses — men and women, old and young, in all groups and production and professional conferences, and producers and students — all have become an armed people who defy every aggressor.

The U.S. and Zionist fleets do not frighten us nor do their planes and cheap and cowardly methods, which only make us more determined and defiant. We say to America: We are fully prepared to destroy its fleets. It must take into account the fact that we are a people who are not afraid of threats, and that we face them as an armed people who have turned towns and villages into military barracks. All the free men in the world, as well as all international and national conferences, support our people. The masses of the people's congresses adopt a stand of steadfastness and confrontation against all the provocations by the leader of world terrorism.

Yes, we are a people who are not afraid of death or threats. This is because we are proud of victory and martyrdom in battles fought so that we may live freely on our land and preach the popular revolution everywhere in the world.

Let all be aware — particularly, the old, mad, coward and bad actor — that this good earth, which begets free revolutionaries, is a huge rock on which all terrorist challenges, whatever their source, will founder.

At this historic moment, we declare that we will turn the Mediterranean into a sea of blood and will turn its skies into nets of fire that will burn that terrorist. [Chants of "With one sign from you, O Mu'ammar, we will destroy the 6th Fleet"]

We, the masses of the basic people's congresses, declare our defiance and steadfastness against all the cowardly and dirty provocations by the leader of terrorism. We will crush U.S. arrogance and rub its nose in the dirt. Long live the Al-Fatih Revolution to attract those who seek guidence and to burn those who seek aggression. God is above the deceit of the aggressor.

U.S. Helicopter Not Intercepted

LD251124 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1110 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Mar (JANA) — JANA has learned that U.S. aircraft yesterday attacked and hit a Libyan civilian ship. An informed source stated that when civilian tugboats went to help the stricken vessel, aircraft of the U.S. Sixth Fleet attacked them.

This was a time when the Libyan Arab forces refrained from intercepting a U.S. helicopter and permitted it to reach an area where two U.S. planes were shot down yesterday. These were two of the three planes shot down by our air defenses. Our forces permitted the helicopter to search for the pilots.

Demonstration at Belgian Embassy

NC251315 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1110 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Statement by unidentified speaker at anti-U.S. demonstration outside the Belgian Embassy in Tripoli — live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The angry masses have gathered together today to defy the arrogant forces of U.S. imperialism which have attacked us in our own country. The masses of the basic people's congresses, student conferences, and productive workers have gathered together today to declare their defiance of U.S. and Zionist forces. [shouts and cheers] On this day, these masses declare, not their denunciation or anger, but their readiness to fight in the Gulf of Sidra and in every part of the land of the Jamahiriyah and the Arab world. [Demonstrators chant "At one sign from you, O Mu'ammar, we will destroy the 6th Fleet."]

These masses issue a declaration of defiance, of intent to fight until liberation, until victory over America, over Zionism, over imperialism. These defiant masses issue the following statement:

We, the masses of the people's congresses, student conferences, and production conferences, meeting on this historic day in the struggle of our great nation to consolidate its unity and build its pan-Arab existence, declare that we have become suicide squads in every part of our chaste land. [Shouts of "Martyrdom, martyrdom, struggle, struggle"]

The masses gathering in front of the Belgian Embassy, which takes care of U.S. imperialist interests, declare they have become suicide squads in every part of our chaste land from the ocean to the Gulf.

We, the masses gathering today, declare that we have put ourselves in a state of maximum alert to sustain the holy war of confrontation against U.S. imperialism, the people's enemy, and the creator of the entity of the Zionist gangs. [Slogans chanted in English: "Down, down, USA; down, down, USA; Al-Qadhdhafi our leader; Al-Qadhdhafi our leader."]

We, the masses gathering in front of the Belgian Embassy, which takes care of U.S. imperialist interests, declare a state of maximum determination to sustain the holy war of confrontation against U.S. imperialism, the people's enemy, and the creator of the entity of the Zionist gangs, which have destroyed our entity, dispersed our people, and occupied our lands. [shouts and cheers]

We declare a state of direct confrontation with the U.S. imperialist-Zionist camp. We appeal to the masses of our Arab nation from the ocea to the Gulf, above all their revolutionary and active forces, to participate in this immortal pan-Arab battle led by the leader of Arab nationalism Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who is the symbol of our liberation and struggle. Forward: The revolutionary struggle will continue until liberation and victory.

Battle 'Directed' From White House

LD251433 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] The JANA political editor has noticed that communiques about confrontation in the Gulf of Sidra are being issued by the White House and not by Pentagon circles, as used to be the case.

At the same time, reports have been coming about continuous meetings and contacts being held by U.S. President Reagan and his senior advisers and senior staff of his administration. This proves that the battle against the Jamahiriyah was being directed from within the White House.

DFLP Leader Supports Al-Qadhdhafi

LD231516 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli. Rajab 12, March 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution received a message from Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine expressing, on behalf of the front's fighters and militants and the Palestinian people, solidarity with the courageous struggle by the Libyan Arab people against imperialist, Zionist and reactionary schemes and its firm stand in the face of organised American terrorism.

Nayif Hawatimah pointed out in his message that American threats and provocations against the Libyan Arab people was an escalation of the policy of terror being conducted by the Reagan administration in collaboration with the entity of the Zionist gangs in occupied Palestine.

Nayif Hawatimah made clear that, besides American military and economic threats and provocations against the people of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the United States is conducting a propaganda campaign against the Libyan Arab people in a bid to undermine the militant stance of Jamahiriyah on the side of Arab and international liberation movements fighting against persistent imperialist, Zionist, racist and fascist schemes.

Nayif Hawatimah urged all Arab progressive forces to stand firmly by the Libyan Arab people and its revolutionary leadership in countering American imperialist and Zionist conspiracies and to take practical measures to put and end to American tyranny against Arab intersts and aspirations.

Continuing Reportage on Visit of Algeria's Brahimi

Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD251006 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, 24/03/83 (APS) — Colonel Mu'amar al-Qadhdhafi audienced on Sunday in Tripoli, Mr. Abdelhamid Brahimi, supply member of the Politburo, prime minister.

Press Communique Issued

LD251007 Algiers APS in English 1002 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, 24/03/86 (APS) — At the end of the official visit paid by Mr. Abdelhamid Brahimi, supply member of the Politburo, prime minister at the head of an Algerian governmental delegation in the Arab Jamahiriyah of Libya a press communique was released.

During his intervention at the opening of the meeting, Commander 'Abd Ahmad Jallud recalled the objectives that the political leaderships of the two countries want to achieve, in this case the union as a prelude to the unity of the Arab Maghreb and the Arab nation one. He recalled in this regard the historical civilizational, geographical sectors and the militantism linking the two brother peoples.

Mr. Jallud also dealt with all the questions of common interest. Concerning these latters, the two sides expressed their satisfaction before the convergence of their analyses and points of views. They decided besides to increase programmes and projects in order to meet the aspirations of the two peoples progress. The two sides examined all the accords and proceedings they signed as they finally proceed to the (?signature) of a cooperation agreement.

Departure Statement

LD251008 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Algiers, 24/03/86 (APS) — Mr. Abdelhamid Brahimi, supply member of the Politburo, prime minister, and his delegation were back yesterday to Algiers, coming from Tripoli, at the end of a three-day official visit to the Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah.

When leaving Tripoli, Mr. Brahimi made a statement to the press in which he indicated that talks between the delegations of the two countries were positive since they resulted in the achievement of common projects in the economic, cultural and technological projects. Mr. Brahimi pointed out that the achievement of these projects constitute an important step in the way of the construction of the Great Arab Maghreb.

On another turn, it is worth recalling that Mr. Abdelhamid Brahimi visited on Sunday the chemical plant of Bu Kammash, which is situated at 160 km west of Tripoli. Explanations were provided to the prime minister by the Libyan cadres in charge of the management of this plant.

People's Congress Praises Cairo Attack on Israelis

LD220750 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] The Arab People's Congress Permanent Secretariat has saluted the Egyptian people and their revolutionary forces who reject capitulation and normalization of relations with the Zionist enemy for the bold attack against 4 Zionists in the Egyptian capital 2 days ago.

In a statement issued yesterday the Permanent Secretariat affirmed that despite imperialism, Zionism, and reaction's endeavors to alienate the Egyptian Arab people from their Arab nation and the Egyptian people's rejection of the hostile designs, the revolutionaries of Arab Egypt lay in wait for all these conspiratorial schemes.

MOROCCO

Libyan Foreign Secretary Arrives in Morocco

LD242356 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Mr Kamil Hasan al-Mansur, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived in Morocco today with a verbal message from the leader of 1 September revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, to His Majesty King Hassan II. Mr Kamil Hasan al-Mansur, in a statement which he made to the radio about this visit said:

[Begin Al-Mansur recording] [Words indistinct] Naturally, my visit to Morocco is not a surprise [words indistinct] I was [words indistinct], assistant secretary general of the Arab-African Union and its historic treaty which link the Jamahiriyah and the Moroccan Kingdom.

I have a verbal message from the brother leader of the revolution to his majesty the king (?in the framework) of the continuous and full consultations between the two leaders, and (?in accordance with) in the treaty which link the Jamahiriyah and the Moroccan Kingdom.

In addition to this, after I was promoted to the post of secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, at the Central People's Congress and after I was assistant secretary general of the Arab-African Union, I have considered that it is my duty and the leadership also thought that I should pay the first visit under [words indistinct] to the Moroccan Kingdom with a message and at the same time (?I should meet) his majesty. Thank you. [end recording]

This was the statement by Kamil Hasan al-Mansur on his arrival to Mohamed V airport.

A Libyan delegation representing the Union Development Committee arrived on the same aircraft to participate in the works of this committee which will meet in Morocco to study the developments projects in implementation under the recommendation of the Economic Council of the Arab-African Union.

SUDAN

Chairman, Defense Minister Meet Egyptian Delegation

JN241804 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1724 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Mar (SUNA) — Transitional Military Council Chairman General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab met here today with the visiting Egyptian military delegation led by Staff Major General Ahmad Salah al-Din 'Abd al-Halim, assistant defense minister and chief of the war operations staff. Following the meeting, the head of the Egyptian delegation said that he conveyed two messages to Gen Siwar al-Dhahab from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and from Minister of Defense and War Production Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah regarding bilateral cooperation in various areas.

The Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum said that the delegation's visit to Sudan falls within the framework of exchanging opinions and consultaions on the situation in both countries. He also described the visit as a step promoting relations.

Defense Minister Brigadier General 'Uthman 'Abdallah received the visiting Egyptian military delegation here today. Following the meeting, he said that the visit is part of the two countries' regular consultations on mutual security and ways to strengthen cooperation in various military areas. The minister denied any link between the visit on the one hand and the fighting in southern Sudan and Ethiopian involvement in support of the Garang forces on the other. He added that Sudan is able to contain the security situation and has no desire to turn the problem into a regional issue or involve other sides in it.

Siwar al-Dhabab Praises Saudi Position, Assistance

JN241908 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1735 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 24 Mar (SUNA) — Transitional Military Council Chairman 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Hasan Siwar al-Dhahab has expressed his gratitide to His Majesty King Fahd of Saudi Arabia for his positive position toward Sudan and the Sudanese people and for his initiatives to save the Sudanese economy. This came in a statement to the press today in which he listed Saudi Arabia's initiatives and contributions to efforts to save the Sudanese economy.

TMC Member on Ethiopian Aggression in South

JN241822 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1752 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Mar (SUNA) — Transitional Military Council member Staff Major General Fadlallah Burmah Nasir has announced that Ethiopia's aggressions and the Ethiopian warplanes' violation of Sudan's airspace cannot be tolerated. In a statement to the press, he said that since the popular uprising Sudan has adopted the principle of good neighborliness and will continue to adhere to it, adding that if there is any side which does not abide by the principles of good relations, Sudan will be compelled to take political, diplomatic, and even military measures.

Burmah also expressed the hope that the National Alliance will succeed in solving the problem of the south despite indications that the two sides could not reach agreement. He added that this is because of the absence of a clear vision of the dimensions of the problem. He also affirmed that Libya has supported Sudan in various areas and arenas and has not extended assistance to Garang since the uprising.

Continuing Reportage on Addis Ababa Meeting

Alliance Chairman Address

EA221806 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Speech by Dr Khalid Yaji, chairman of the National Alliance for the Salvation of the Homeland [NASH] at 22 March meeting in Addis Ababa between the Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement and NASH — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Colonel Doctor John Garang, chairman of the SPLM-SPLA, ladies and gentlemen attending this conference: God's peace and mercy be upon you. Permit me at the outset on behalf of the NASH to welcome you very warmly to this opening session to start the dialogue between representatives of the SPLM-SPLA and the NASH delegation which aims at preparing the appropriate atmosphere for a national democratic conference to deal with Sudan's basic problems.

The start of the triumphant uprising of March-April was one of the most splendid epics of our people in their modern history and was a prelude to directing Sudan along the democratic road. The reins of affairs were held, following the March-April uprising, by a transitional government on the basis of a defined convention and with defined objectives.

Hopes were high that the transitional government would succeed in achieving the greater part of those objectives. Despite the fact that what has been achieved does not satisfy the aspirations of the Sudanese people and their revolutionary spirit and without wishing to elaborate on the reasons for the failures, the indisputable fact is that the March-April uprising and the subsequent transitional period have been a prelude to directing Sudan along the democratic road. Elections are no more than a step forward on that road.

We wish to stress here that the democratic dialogue and the solving of problems by democratic means is the option adopted by the forces of the uprising and accepted by the Sudanese people out of their full conviction and long-standing experiences. We shall continue to appeal and open the door wide and extend our welcoming hand to include all the sons of the one homeland. We are aware of the extent of challenges to this option and the dangers surrounding it. However, we are determined to strive earnestly to ensure and preserve it by all democratic ways and means.

Now, as the question of fighting between the sons of the one homeland going on in the dear southern part of the homeland constitutes one of the questions of concern to anyone who is solicitous about the interests of the homeland, the uprising from the first moment began to make efforts to meet the arms-bearing brothers and to sit with them for the purpose of a dialogue to find an acceptable solution to restore security, stability and unity to Sudan. All efforts in this direction emphasized that the Sudanese people had adopted the democratic road as an option for government, that they had adopted justice and equality as their emblems, that the question of [words indistinct] such as guaranteeing human rights and basic freedoms must come at the top of their priorities. The elimination of the vestiges of the May regime, policies, institutions, laws and symbols must be the starting point for launching Sudan towards the wider horizons of the future. However, all these efforts faced obstacles despite the great efforts in the past, but determination on both sides bore fruit, culminating in this meeting.

The war which is going on now in a dear part of the homeland daily destroyes the valuable lives of sons of the same homeland and consumes vast material resources which we need for development and progress. Indeed, it pains us that this loss of lives and resources should continue. We are therefore of the opinion that this meeting of ours will produce a definite determination to put an end to this bloodshed with all necessary speed. Accordingly, the holding of the anticipated constitutional conference will afford us the opportunity to deal seriously with our national problems with all the eagerness and jealousy for this dear homeland and with the aim of creating a new Sudan, secure, politically stable and with economic and social justice.

From here, we appeal to the SPLM-SPLA to regard this opportunity of our meeting — which came after great effort — as a unique opportunity, particularly as our people's experience over the last 30 years of their history has been [words indistinct] and the failure of attempts of a military solution to our political problems. We must examine our national experience and the experiences of brotherly peoples and our neighbors and draw from them the wisdom of containing our problems, as one people capable of solving our problems and differences in a brotherly, democratic and peaceful manner that takes into consideration the homeland's supreme interests.

The responsibility, brothers, is a historic one. The eyes and hearts of the people of Sudan are fixed on this conference — indeed, the eyes of the whole world are directed towards us and they wonder whether we have the ability, at this point, to solve our problems by ourselves. We are confident that the Sudanese genius, which unleashed two great revolutions in two decades, is capable of overcoming all the obstacles and barriers in order to achieve national unity.

In the name of the NASH, which is expressive of the forces of the March-April uprising -- having promised ourselves to do our utmost to restore security, stability and justice to the regions of unified Sudan -- we pledge to the world to transform our decisions into reality, namely leading Sudan towards the horizon of progress and we pledge to implement this by all democratic ways and means. Here, we must pause to appreciate the effort exerted by delegates of the National Alliance, for the efforts they made to render successful this meeting.

In conclusion, brothers and sisters, we must extend salutions and appreciation to the sisterly neighbor, Ethiopia, both government and people, which created the climate for holding this conference. This is a valuable extension of the contributions made by the Ethiopian people to Sudan. We look forward to more cooperation between our two peoples that will guarantee to serve our common interests for the elevation and prosperity of the two peoples and serve the causes of the African Continent.

Allow me, here, to say in English: Dear brothers and sisters. The power of the popular uprising is here represented in the political parties and over 200 trade unions and associations and the SPLM-SPLA. We are all here, no doubt committed to social, economic and political transformation and hte construction of the new Sudan. Let us take this and make a positive step forward now. [preceding paragraph in English]

Initial Agreement Reached

JN241535 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1517 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Nairobi, 24 Mar (SUNA) — The National Alliance delegation and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, during their meetings in the Ethiopian city of Koka, have reached an agreement on the broad lines of the situation which should precede official dialogue between the two sides. An informed source has affirmed to SUNA in Nairobi that a committee was formed to formulate the resolutions which have been reached and which have not yet been disclosed.

Further Details

EA251059 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
0900 GMT 25 Mr 86

[Text] In their 12-day [as heard] meeting at Ras Hotel in Koka the delegations from the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement], and the Sudanese National Alliance for Salvation yesterday agreed to hold the first [as heard] constitutional conference in June 1986 in Khartoum. In a statement at the end of their discussions the leaders of the two delegations said that the meeting had been successful and had created favorable conditions for the convening of the forthcoming constitutional conference.

In a statement [words indistinct] [president of the National Alliance for Salvation] Dr Khalid Yaji thanked the government [words indistinct] of Revolutionary Ethiopia for the welcome accorded to the two delegations and for the great efforts it had made toward the success of the meeting. He said that the basic objective of the meeting to hold a constitutional conference in Sudan and to facilitate preparations for it had been achieved.

Dr Yaji said that the two delegations had agreed to hold another meeting in Addis Ababa on 7 May 1986 to be attended by five members of each delegation in order to prepare for the [words indistinct] constitutional conference.

[Words indistinct] thanked the Ethiopian [words indistinct] for the hospitality accorded the delegation members and for the efforts they made toward the success of the meeting, adding that the meeting had come to a fruitful conclusion.

Lieutenant Colonel Carabino Kuanyin [SPLM delegation leader] reiterated that the Sudanese are confident that they can solve their problems by themselves. He added that among the major issues on which agreement had been reached were those calling for acknowledgement of the southern Sudanese problem as a problem for the whole of Sudan; that Shari'a law and military agreements be cancelled; that the Transitional Military Council would resign [no date given] and that the military agreements signed by Sudan with other countries be cancelled.

SPLA Radio: Nile Battalion Shoots Down Helicopter

EA241546 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The SPLA forces of Nile Battalion have shot down one helicopter which fell in Jur Area. Our correspondent said that the helicopter was carrying the wounded government soldiers from Gogrial Garrison to Waw, among whom was one lieutenant colonel by name (Hesabu). The helicopter was shot down by a PKM machinegun.

SPLA Radio: 71 Troops Killed

EA241907 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] SPLA forces of Nile Battalion, under the command of Maj Paulino Deng Ajok, intercepted a large force of Siwar al-Dhahab's army in Gogrial on 13 March 1986. According to the Radio SPLA correspondent accompanying Nile Battalion, 71 enemy soldiers were killed including one Lieutenant Colonel Daud Rihan, one captain and one first lieutenant. Three cars were destroyed and two cars were forced back to Waw. One of the Magirus cars destroyed bears the plate number 16334. Fourteen shells of 81 mm mortar were captured.

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister Receives Iraqi Counterpart

LD241402 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi this morning had a meeting with the Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz, who said that this meeting falls within the context of consultations on bilateral relations and the issues in the agenda of the Arab League Council.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that views regarding the agenda and the resolutions that have to be adopted in order to confront the current situation in the Arab arena were identical. He said that he explained to Beji Caid Essebsi the situation on the war fronts and affirmed Iraq's strong readiness to confront the Iranian attack and drive out Iranian invaders from Iraqi territories. Tariq 'Aziz expressed Iraq's appreciation of the fraternal stand of solidarity adopted by Tunisia — president, government, and people — for supporting Iraq in the war it is engaged in for its sovereignty and dignity.

ETHIOPIA

Eritrean Forces Repulse Two Government Army Brigades

JN241942 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1716 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Mar (SUNA) — A military communique issued by the Eritrean Unified National Council [EUNC] has said that EUNC forces repulsed Ethiopian forces which tried to penetrate the liberated countryside on 21 March. The Ethiopian forces were composed of two brigades reinforced by tanks and armored vehicles and tried to penetrate the liberated countryside in the area of Atret near Tessenei neighboring the eastern Sudanese border. The EUNC forced them to return defeated to the city of Tessenei.

The communique said that a battle broke out between the revolutionaries' forces and Ethiopian Government troops which began at 0600 and lasted until 1800, resulting in the killing and wounding of a large number of Ethiopian Government troops. The revolutionaries seized two large vehicles loaded with weapons and ammunition.

The communique explained that the EUNC forces are still controlling more than 80 percent of the Eritrean territory and that Ethiopian troops of over 150,000 fighters, constituting half of the Ethiopian Army, have unsuccessfully been trying to storm the rugged Eritrean countryside for several years.

SOMALIA

Further on Visit by PRC President Li Xiannian

Dinner Held; Speeches Given

EA241906 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0450 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpts] The president of the SDR, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, and his wife, Challe Khadija Maalim Ismail, last night attended a dinner party hosted by the president of the PRC, Mr Li Xiannian, at the Chinese Embassy in Mogadishu.

In an exchange of speeches by the two presidents, President Li Xiannian first of all expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome accorded to him, his wife and his delegation and said that that would leave them with pleasant memories in their hearts. The president of the PRC also stated that there was no doubt that the talks held by the two governments in Mogadishu would further strengthen and broaden the existing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries particularly in the economic and technological fields. The president went on to say that during their visit they had witnessed the progress made by the people of Somalia in nation-building and economic development and expressed his satisfaction with the good working relationship existing between the Somali public and the Chinese engineers and technicians in Somalia. Mr Li Xiannian wished Challe Siad and his wife good health and progress and prosperity for the Somali people.

The president of the SDR, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, said in his speech that the Somali people had great confidence in the efforts of the Chinese Government and the evident dedication in implementing Chinese development projects in progress in the country. The president expressed his gratitude for the commitment shown by the Chinese experts and workers in Somalia in discharging their responsibilities.

The president of the SDR, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, went on to say that the talks and agreements between Somalia and the Government of China would play an important role in further strengthening relations and fraternal cooperation between the two countries. Challe Siad noted in his speech the great victories scored by the Chinese Government against the shortage of food and scourge of hunger currently affecting parts of the world and said the visit by President Li Xiannian, his wife and delegation to Somalia would promote cooperation by the two governments and the two peoples.

The president of the SDR, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, thanked the president of China for the dinner party and wished him long life and good health. The president also hoped for continued friendship between the two countries and requested the PRC president to convey his impressions of the Somali people and country to the Chinese people.

Li Xiannian Addresses Reporters

EA241902 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0450 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] The President of the PRC, Li Xiannian, stated that the Chinese Government welcomes and supports the progress made at the talks aimed at reaching a peaceful solution to the differences between Somalia and Ethiopia, during the meeting of the two heads of state, to pave the way to peace and stability prevailing in the Horn of Africa region. The president of China, who was addressing reporters at the Peoples Hall in Mogadishu yesterday afternoon, said that Somalia and China have very cordial relations dating back to the time that the two countries established diplomatic relations and added that efforts by the two countries have enabled fruitful cooperation by both sides in the political, economic, cultural, agricultural, industrial, educational and social development fields. Turning to the visit he and his delegation are making to Somalia, he said they were impressed by the progress the people of Somalia have made in the economic, cultural, nation-building and other sectors under the correct leadership of President Mohamed Siad Barre.

The president went on to say that the talks he had held with the president of the SDR and other leaders of the Somali Government on bilateral relations and on international issues were cordial and it was noteworthy that the two countries have identical views on international issues and on how to promote cooperation between the two countries which had resulted in the signing of an agreement for economic and technological cooperation. President Li Xiannian said he believes that his visit will cement friendship and understanding between the two sides and will promote the existing friendship and cooperation between Somalia and China.

Addressing himself to the PRC's policy on finding solutions to the major problems of the world, the Chinese president said in pursuing its independent foreign policy based on peace, the Chinese Government was opposed to self-importance and supported world peace in accordance with the five points which form the basis for the principle of peaceful existence. The president added that the strengthening of unity and cooperation between China and other countries in the Third World forms the basis for Chinese foreign policy.

The president went on to say that China's open policy is geared towards promoting economic and technological cooperation between the two sides and that China is willing to search for, and to open the four points of equality, mutual benefit from [words indistinct], emphasis on the practical outcome in various forms and the realization of general prosperity for all.

On the Chinese Government's position regarding the problem in Southern Africa, President Li Xiannian declared that it supports the just struggle of the Namibian people to achieve national independence and the people of South Africa who oppose apartheid and insisted that that the leadership in South Africa should reject apartheid and its policy aimed at disturbing the stability of neighboring countries as well as bringing to an end its illegal occupation of Namibia in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 435. He expressed the hope that the international community would work for the realization of these objectives.

CHAD

AFP Carries List of Members of New Cabinet

AB241235 Paris AFP in English 1125 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Ndjamena, March 24 (AFP) — Following is the list of ministers and secretaries of state (junior ministers) appointed Sunday by Chadian President Hissene Habre, who is also defence minister:

Minister of state without portfolio: Djijingar Bono Ngardoum

MINISTERS

Foreign affairs: Gouara Lassou
Territorial administration: Ibrahim Mahamat Itno
Justice: Djibril Negue Djogo
Mines and energy: Adoum Moussa Seif
Public works, hospitals and town planning: Moussa Kadam
Education: Mahamat Senoussi
Finance and computer technology: Mbailem Bana Ngarnayal
Food security and natural disaster: Taher Abdel Djelil
Livestock and pastoral water supplies: Taher Guinassou
Agriculture and rural development: Baniara Yoyana
Public health: Mahmat Nour Mataye
Tourism and the environment: Mbailao Naimbaye Lozimian
Posts and telecommunications: Assilek Halata
Civil service: Routouang Yoma
Labour, employment and job training: Yomite Romba
Transport and civil aviation: Abderramane Ali Abdoul
Culture, youth and sport: Djibrine Grinky
Planning (minister delegated by the Presidency): Soumaila Mahamat
Presidential adviser: Ouang Monching Homsala

SECRETARIES OF STATE

Information and guidance: Moumine Togoi Hamidi
State inspection and control: Haroun Godi
Foreign affairs: Ahmed Korom
Interior and territorial administration: Ngargos [single name as received]
Education: Mbailao Djimalde
Finance and computer technology: Brahim Said
Food security and natural disasters: Kah Nadji Yamarke
Agriculture and rural development: Seid Bauche
Public health: Pierre Tokinou
Trade and industry: Amos Reoulengar
Government secretary-general: Youssouf Sidi Sougoumi
Deputy secretary-general: Beral Moise

Congo Minister Says Goukouni, Habre To Meet

AB242119 Libreville Africa No 1 In French 1830 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The meeting between Goukouni Oueddei and Hissein Habre will effectively take place in Brazzaville. The Congolese minister of foreign affairs, Ndinga-Oba, stated this today in Libreville following a meeting with Gabonese President Bongo. The Congolese minister, who is currently touring the various capitals of the Central African region, did not, however, specify a date for the meeting. Listen to Mr Ndinga-Oba speaking to Rodrigue Assele:

[Begin Ndinga-Oba recording] As a matter of fact, there will be a meeting. (?You will be informed) in due course. We have made the necessary contacts with those concerned: With the GUNT [Transitional National Union Government], with the Ndjamena government. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Arms, Vehicle Seizures From GUNT Forces Reported

AB222236 Paris AFP in French 1534 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Ndjamena, 22 Mar (AFP) — More than 200 vehicles — all-purpose, transport or equipped with heavy arms — were collected from the "enemy" by the Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT] during the fighting taking place in northern Chad since 10 February, according to official reports published in Ndjamena. These large quantities of equipment supplied by Libya to the forces of Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government (GUNT, armed opposition to Ndjamena) and collected by the Chadian Army on the battlefield, it is observed in Ndjamena, enables the GUNT to cheaply equip itself with arms to the point that Mr Hassan Djamous, the FANT commander-in-chief, does not hesitate to state that "since 1980, Libya is our principal arms supplier."

After the fighting in Kouba Olonga, Zigey, Oum Chalouba-Kalait, and recently in Chicha, situated on both sides of the 16 parallel, various official reports have made it possible to establish the fact that the FANT seized some [figure indistinct] 4-wheel drive Toyota vehicles equipped with 14.5-mm double-barreled or single-barreled heavy machineguns, ground-to-ground missiles, and communications equipment, as well as about 100 all-purpose vehicles, meant for carrying troops, about 40 heavy transport vehicles or tankers, and about half a dozen light Brazilian Cascavel armored cars. In addition to this "impressive collection" of equipment, they seized about a hundred individual weapons, and some ammunitions. The war booty, according to Chadian military sources, is to be used immediately after repairs.

At present, Mr Hissein Habre's army, according to all the observers in Chad, has a significant combat capability thanks notably to French and American military aid.

According to reliable sources in Ndjamena, France supplied the FANT with 90 Panhardt light armored cars, and other all-purpose vehicles, Milan antitank missiles and rocket-launchers, ammunition and communications equipment. In addition to this French military aid, which is considered very important by the Chadian authorities, there is the American military aid which is mainly made up of spare-parts, individual weapons, M-16 assult rifles and light M-60 machineguns and Red Eye surface-to-air missiles.

Moreover, the American Government has just granted the Chadian Government a $10 million (3.5 billion CFA) additional emergency military aid. The C-130 Hercules transport aircraft which, crashed in an accident on 7 March at the end of the Ndjamena Airport runway, might soon be replaced, it was hinted by American sources in the Chadian capital.

RWANDA

Soviet Solidarity Delegation Arrives on Visit

AB221200 Paris AFP in French 1120 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Kigali, 22 Mar (AFP) — A delegation of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Countries arrived in Kigali on Friday night on a visit to Rwanda at the invitation of the National Revolutionaty Development Movement (MRND -sole party)

The delegation is led by Mr Brovikov ,member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belorussia (one of the 16 republics of the Soviet Union). It will visit certain development projects and will hold talks with political and adminstrative authorities.

ZAIRE

Congolese Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

AB211839 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1430 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Kinshasa, 21 Mar (AZAP) — Congolese Foreign Minister Antoine Ndinga-Oba arrived in Kinshasa today from Brazzaville for a 24-hour official visit to the Zairian capital.

Upon arrival at the Ngobila beach, Mr Ndinga-Oba explained that he brought a message from Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso to his Zairian counterpart and brother, Marshal Mobutu. According to him, this message concerns relations [words indistinct] between Congo and Zaire, reflecting the friendly and fraternal relations existing between the two heads of state.

Questioned about the date on which the reconciliation conference arranged between the Chadian Government and the opposition — the Transitional National Union Government — would be held, Mr Ndinga-Oba stated that arrangements have already been made for the conference but he did not specify the date.

UNITA-Released Foreign Hostages Transit Kinshasa

AB211340 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1824 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Kinshasa, 20 Mar (AZAP) — The hostages released recently by UNITA — numbering 190 — transited Kinshasa on Thursday morning on their way from Lubumbashi. The released hostages, who were welcomed notably by Portugal's ambassador to Zaire, Alvarro Guerra, and the British charge d'affaires to Zaire, Mr Crompton, were scheduled to leave the Zairian capital the same day for Lisbon on board a Portuguese Airline, TAP, special flight.

It is recalled by an authorized source in Kinshasa that President Mobutu Sese Seko gave in to the request by the International Red Cross to let the UNITA hostages transit in Zaire. The source points out that it was at the end of last week, when the head of state was on board his yatch at about 600 km from Kinshasa, that 44 UNITA soldiers, together with a group of hostages, crossed the border into Zaire from the side of River Kasai which separates Zaire from Angola.

As soon as he was informed of this situation, Marshal Mobutu ordered an investigation into how the UNITA soldiers were able to penetrate into Zaire. He also gave instructions for these soldiers to be disarmed and returned to where they came from.

The same source points out that what is most shocking to the Zairian authorities in this affair is the attempt by UNITA to make it appear that there exists a kind of link with the Zairian Government, while since 1978 (date of normalization of relations between Kinshasa and Luanda) Kinshasa scrupulously respects the spirit of the agreements signed with Angola, which includes the maintenance of relations of good neighborliness between the two countries.

In this context, Mokolo wa Mpombo, state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation, received on Tuesday Miguel Gaspar Neto, ambassador of the People's Republic of Angola to Zaire. During the meeting, which centered mainly on relations between Zaire and Angola, Mr Mokolo reaffirmed the concern of the Zairian Government to maintain relations of good neighborliness between the two countries, in conformity with the spirit of the agreements signed in 1978.

BURKINA FASO

Guinean Minister Arrives for ANAD Summit, Comments

AB241712 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] On the eve of the 11th CEAO [West African Economic Community] summit meeting, visitors to the Presidency of Burkina Faso have been following one another.[sentence as heard] It is in this connection that Comrade Thomas Sankara, president of Burkina Faso and chairman of the CNR [National Council of the Revolution], this morning received Guinean Defense Minister Sory Doumbouya. The Guinean minister, who is in Ouagadougou at the invitation of his Burkinabe counterpart, explained to the press the purpose of his visit.

[Begin recording] [Doumbouya] I have come to Burkina Faso at the invitation of my colleague, the minister of national defense, to attend the ANAD [Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement] meeting as an observer.

[Unidentified reporter] Can we say that Guinea is planning to join the ANAD soon?

[Doumbouya] We have not made any such decision yet. But since last year, we have been attending the ANAD summit as an observer.

[Reporter] Well, as an observer, what importance do you attach to the ANAD?

[Doumbouya] Its [words indistinct] are not very well defined but we know, all the same, that it is an efficient organization which can be useful to our subregion.

[Reporter] What is the new defense policy under the new regime in Guinea?

[Doumbouya] As far as defense is concerned, we are reorganizing ourselves, because under the former regime, defense did not really exist. Now that the Army is in power, we are putting things in order. [end recording]

ANAD Ministerial Session Opens in Ouagadougou

AB241156 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
0630 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Excerpts] The 10th session of the ANAD [Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement] Ministerial Council opened at the CEAO [West African Economic Community] conference hall last night. Present at the opening session were representatives from Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Togo, and Benin as well as the chiefs of staff of the ANAD member countries.

In his opening address, ANAD Secretary General Jean Gomis, on behalf of the personnel of ANAD and on his own behalf, thanked the Burkinabe people, the National Council of the Revolution [CNR], and the revolutionary government for the fraternal reception accorded them. While placing the current annual session within the context of reporting on (?CCAP) [expansion unknown] activities and future prospects, Gen Jean Gomis underscored the credibility of ANAD gained through the unfortunate events of the Christmas Day war, a war which, according to Gen Gomis, enabled ANAD to become well known by the world with its first experience of war. The secretary general also thanked all the countries which contributed to the signing of the cease-fire agreement, and then presented the items on the agenda.

[Begin Gomis recording] The documents that will be presented to you for examination, after being studied by ANAD experts, include, as in preceding years, draft protocols which are legal instruments indispensable to the functioning and effectiveness of our organization. The most important among these are the draft project relating to the administration and financing of a common action; supplementary draft protocol on the creation of regional committees for assistance in civilian protection. You will also be presented with some recommendations made by the meeting of the committee of experts, and relating to financial and political issues that are likely to have important repercussions on the functioning of the General Secretariat and the dynamism of ANAD.

Finally, you will be presented with the draft budget for 1986, a budget of rigor and austerity, as the experts put it, because of the alarming economic situation prevailing in nearly all the member-countries.

The program for the year 1986 includes studies of some protocols and diverse activities that are necessary and desirable within the limits of our financial resources and fall within ANAD's set objectives.

As such, honorable ministers, ladies, gentlemen, even though ANAD does not participate directly in production, one can be assured that it works indirectly to this end. In fact, through its very existence and its capacity of intervention in the area of defense, it enables our population to take an active part in the economic and cultural life, in an atmosphere of peace and security. For the future, it is hoped that the umbrella of ANAD will be usable and not overused and that the political will of member-countries will converge solidly toward the protection of the economy and toward civilian protection, areas in which we have much more to do. [end recording]

Speaking after Jean Gomis, Comrade Boukar Jean-Baptiste Lingani, current chairman of the ANAD Ministerial Council, welcomed the participants to Ouagadougou, to the free land of Burkina Faso. Speaking on behalf of the Burkinabe people, who aspire toward peace and solidarity, and on behalf of the CNR and the revolutionary government, the comrade minister of popular defense stressed the conviction of Burkina Faso as to the success of the meeting. He criticized the mind-poisoning campaign launched by the international press against our country. Our revolution, he affirmed, seeks the well-being of the working masses and hs opted for cooperation, solidarity, and friendship between peoples. He thanked ANAD for its efforts during the Christmas Day war and asked for a minute's silence in memory of the four Ivorian pilots who died while on a mission.

Ministers Meet With Sankara

AB242232 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] The current chairman of the Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement, ANAD, Comrade Thomas Sankara, granted an audience this afternoon to the foreign affairs and defense ministers of the ANAD member-countries and those of Benin and Guinea who have been attending the preparatory meeting of the ANAD summit. After the audience, Ivorian Foreign Minister Simeon Ake summed up the talks with the comrade president and spoke of the future of the ANAD.

[Begin recording][Ake] It is a tradition for the heads of delegation to an important conference such as ours to pay a courtesy call to the head of state. This is what we just did this afternoon when President Sankara readily received us and devoted some of his precious time to us. He is getting ready to receive his colleagues from the West African Economic Community (CEAO) and the ANAD. This implies a lot of worries and work on the part of the heads of state. We are particularly grateful to President Sankara for having received us.

We briefed the president on the deliberations of the Council of Ministers which Minister Lingani chaired successfully and determinedly. I think that these deliberations will be completed quite soon, (?probably) tonight. We have arrived at a general consensus on all points that we examined at the recommendation of the experts.

[Unidentified reporter] Can you tell us something about the past activities of the ANAD, and how (?do you see) [words indistinct]?

[Ake] We believe that ANAD is quite a young institution which is taking its first steps. So we are meeting now to make recommendations to the heads of state with the view to strengthening both its structure and its means so as to enable it to play its rightful role, that is to contribute to promoting an era of peace, stability, and security in our subregion.

[Reporter] The ANAD family is growing bigger. Have you examined (?measures) to admit other states?

[Ake] The ANAD is (?open) to African countries, especially to those of the subregion. [Words indistinct] of interregional cooperation, there are two observer countries: Benin and Guinea. The ANAD has quite bright prospects. We hope that, after due reflection and consultations within their institutions, these brotherly countries will decide to join us. That is our wish though I think this falls under the competence of the heads of state. They will (?certainly) be happy to realize that two other countries — CEAO [words indistinct] — have joined the organization. [end recording]

CEAO Affair, Other TPR Trials Open 25 Mar

AB241112 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Excerpts] It is on next Tuesday [25 March] at 1500 that the 15th session of the People's Revolutionary Tribunal [TPR] will open at the People's Hall in Ouagadougou. A Justice Ministry communique, which announces the holding of this session, states that six cases are to be tried during this session. The cases are:

1. The State of Burkina Faso versus Edouard Ouattara, Youssouf Kabore, Kani Pascal Yien, Inoussa Kanbou, Mamadou Sow, and Jules Poda, all accused of embezzlement of public funds totalling 30,450,500 CFA francs to the detriment of Air Afrique airline, and the use of a false documents and illegal enrichment. [passage omitted on Cases 2 thru 5, minor cases of embezzlement]

6. This 15th session will also try the CEAO [West African Economic Community] affair in which the leading accused — Mohamed Tiecoura Diawara, former minister, former president of the Dakar Club and businessman; Moussa Ngom, former secretary general of the CEAO; and Moussa Diakite, former director of the FOSIDEC [Solidarity and Intervention Fund for the Development of the Community] — will appear. These persons have been accused of forgery, use of false documents and the embezzlement of public fund of more than 6 billion CFA francs, and illegal enrichment. This affair, on which much has been written and said, has been presented and commented upon in various ways by various people. With this 15th session, the truth must and will come out in this affair.

Undoubtedly, this session will attract the attention of all the member states of the CEAO who found themselves duped out of the handsome sum of 6 billion CFA francs by a gang of unscrupulous people with solid connections with high international financial circles. This trial will try to expose the underhanded dealings maintained in the oligarchical lobbies by Diawara and companions with the magnates of international financial capital, the real saboteurs of Africa's struggle for its economic and social development.

Apart from the embezzlement of the 6 billion CFA francs, it is also the negative role played by some top African functionaries and the management of subregional organizations which are also to be proved in this session. Rather than being experts or specialists in such and such a field of development, these dishonest intellectuals specialised in the field of high financial deliquency, thus each day bringing to its knees the establishments entrusted to them by the people, who today see their hopes shattered. The case of the CEAO is today only symptomatic of such a situation in Africa.

Diawara and former CEAO executives — Moussa Ngom and Moussa Diakite — should show where they put the 6 billion CFA francs of the FOSIDEC or how it was used. In any case, the TPR will help them to do so, and it will only be the better for the interest of the people of the member-states of the CEAO. In this CEAO affair, we dare hope that the defense of the accused would be made in the spirit of the defense of the interests of the community; defense of truth and equity without lawyers using any procedure whatsoever to exonerate their clients. They should defend the legal rights of this client, and not to defend, through this client, deliquency itself. In any case, we know we can count on the perspicacity of our judges who, after all, have great experience in handling the proceedings of the TPR's. In so doing, they will not allow any legal gimmicks to obstruct the search for the truth.

The TPR, as a powerful weapon in the hands of the Burkinabe people, will be able, as usual, to be the defender of just causes. With this 15th session, the TPR will be in the service of more than 35 million peoples of the CEAO, and beyond them in the service of Africa roused to indignation.

ALG Council of Ministers Meeting Ends

AB241145 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The 22d ordinary session of the council of ministers of the Liptako-Gourma Authority for Integrated Development [ALG], which began this morning, ended this afternoon. Items on the agenda included the report of the chairman of the council of ministers, that is the presentation of the results of the [words indistinct]. The ministers reviewed the Bamako summit, progress on the authority's development program, the [word indistinct] and financial situation, and the items on the agenda of the forthcoming summit conference of heads of state.

GAMBIA

Senegalese-Trained Gendarmerie Corps Established

AB250925 Paris AFP in English 0908 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Banjul, March 25 (AFP) — A gendarmerie corps trained by officers from neighbouring Senegal and equipped by France paraded here Monday before Gambia's President Sir Dawda Jawara.

Presenting its colours, he said the new unit would provide tactical support to the police and the army, as part of the integration of the Senegambian Armed Forces called for by the two countries' defence pact.

English-speaking Gambia and Francophone Senegal, which is 20 times the size of Gambia, formed a confederation in 1982, six months after Senegalese troops crushed an insurrection by the Gambian paramilitary field force.

LIBERIA

UP Senator Refuses To Quit Senate on Party's Order

AB242226 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Grand Cape Mount Senator Ruth Peres today said she would remain in the Senate and continue to serve the Liberian people despite her expulsion from the Unity Party [UP]. Senator Peres, along with other UP members in the national legislature were expelled from the party on March 12 by the party's Executive Committee for accepting their seats in contravention of the party's order. The UP is one of three opposition parties which refused to accept their seats won in the October 15 general elections.

Speaking at a press conference today at the Capitol in Monrovia, Mrs Peres said her decision to remain in the Senate was based on her belief in national reconciliation and her commitment to SECOM [Special Election Commission] to take her seat as an elected legislator, adding: I will take my seat because of the confidence my people have in me and for the furtherance of my obligations to my country and people. Mrs Peres explained that her move to accept her seat was endorsed by the leadership of the UP, particularly the local and national chairmen of the party. She said: In spite of this, several malicious attempts had been made by certain selfish members of the Executive Committee of the party to have them expelled from the party without any due process.

Madame Peres said: Even though they were elected on the UP ticket, they belonged to various constituencies which they are mainly accountable to, adding, as dedicated, patriotic and peace-loving people, we are committed to securing the peace, tranquility, stability and economic, as well as the social well-being of our people who elected us.

UPP Leader Interviewed on Resuming Politics

MB261813 London BBC World Service in English
1515 GMT 20 Mar 86

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Political parties in Liberia are busy getting their act together to mount an effective opposition to Samuel Doe's ruling NDPL [National Democratic Party of Liberia]. The Liberian Unification Party, the Unity Party , and the Liberian Action Party announced last weekend that they were forming an opposition coalition, while a couple of weeks ago the United People's Party, UPP, signalled its intention to resume political activities despite the ban imposed on it by Samuel Doe in August, before last year's controversial elections and the attempted coup.

The UPP's leader, Baccus Matthews, is in the United States. On the line to New Jersey, Rich Wells asked him why the UPP had decided to reactivate now.

[Begin recording][Matthews] It's more a matter of timing. At the time the party was banned, we had no constitution in Liberia. It was a military government and we had no rights, constitutionally, so we were expelled. Now in Liberia we have a constitution and the party is resuming its activities consistent with the positions of the constitution. Furthermore, last year — when we were banned — we saw the ban as a provocation, perhaps calculated to provoke the party into a confrontation with the government and we decided that we would never act on the timing of others.

[Wells] What exactly do you mean by the resumption of political activities?

[Matthews] Well, we won't [as heard] be carrying on the normal functions of the party, that is articulating a program engaging in the democratic process to select party officials , explaining the views of party members with regard to common issues of the day in the country, and, of course, getting ready for such time as there will be local government elections.

[Wells] But, officially, you are still banned in Liberia, are you not?

[Matthews] Well, there was an order banning the party in August last year. We believe that that has been obviated by the positions of the constitution.

Liberia now has a constitution which provides fundamental rights to the citizens of the country all laws to the contrary notwithstanding. So, officially, the ban has been lifted by the advent of a civilian government in Monrovia.

[Wells] Why is it that you are not in Monrovia yourself at the moment?

[Matthews] I travelled to the United States late last year, following a motor accident in Monrovia. I came out here seeking medical assistance and after completion of medication I was on my way to Monrovia and a few hours before boarding the plane, I received calls from Monrovia indicating that the government had dispatched troops to the airport and since we didn't know what that was supposed to mean, it was suggested to me that I should sidestep what could quite likely be an Aquino reception, and so I'm here waiting for a word from party leaders in the country as to such time as to believe it is auspicious for (?my return).

[Wells] The other opposition parties at the weekend in fact joined forces in a coalition. Now is that something you would like to be part of?

[Matthews] Well, you know I was ... [changes thought] my party was an advocate of a merger of political forces in the country quite some time ago. We think that, as welcome as the idea is today, it is almost 2 years too late. But we think it is a first step in what should have been the right direction.

NIGERIA

Joint Commission With Guinea Meets in Lagos

AB241915 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Nigeria has called for stronger economic relations between her and Guinea. Opening a 4-day session of the Nigeria-Guinea Joint Economic Commission in Lagos today, the minister of national planning, Dr Kalu IdikaKalu, noted that the inaugural session in Conakry reviewed the level of economic, industrial, technical, and cultural cooperation between the two countries. He said very little has been achieved in those areas and hoped there would be improvement.

His Guinean counterpart, Mr Benjamin, observed that his country had not been actively involved in international economic cooperation because of its economic recession. He, however, expressed (?his country's) preparedness to go into joint ventures with Nigeria and Nigerian industrialists. Mr Benjamin said his country has vast agricultural and mineral resouces that could also be beneficial to Nigeria.

SIERRA LEONE

Number of Nominated Parliament Members To Increase

AB241625 Paris AFP in English 1509 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Freetown, March 24 (AFP) — The number of nominated members to parliament in this small West African state is to be increased from seven to ten, in accordance with a bill passed here last Friday by parliament. The bill effectively amends Sierra Leone's Constitution, under which the president is empowered to nominate citizens from any walk of life to become parliamentarians and even Cabinet ministers. Friday's session was (?the first) parliament sitting since President Joseph Momoh was elected head of state after the retirement of Siaka Stevens last November. Parliamentary elections are due to be held early May.

ANGOLA

UNITA Reports Attack on U.S.-Operated Oil Complex

PA251234 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1220 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Lisbon, 25 Mar (REUTER) — The Angolan rebels of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] today stated that early yesterday they shelled and attacked with mortars a petroleum complex operated by a U.S. firm in Malongo in the northern Angolan province of Cabinda and that they caused heavy damage to it.

A UNITA spokesman reported in Lisbon through a telephone communique that UNITA guerrillas also dynamited sections of an oil pipeline in Chimbondo, Ukumazi, Chinda, and Santa Catarina in the same province. The spokesman added that fires caused by those attacks have yet to be extinguished.

15 Mar UNITA Attack Repelled; 10 Killed

MB201344 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] The national security and defense forces stationed in Uige Province repelled an attack by the UNITA armed bandits in Maquela do Zombo municipality on 15 March.

A total of 10 criminals were killed and another 4 counterrevolutionaries in the pay of the racist South African regime were captured. Variety of war materiel was captured by the FAPLA forces who immediately began a pursuit operation against the enemy.

In the 6th military region, the Angolan Army has continued its search and destroy operations against the armed bandits. They killed 110 UNITA criminals during the first 2 weeks of March. A further 14 counterrevolutionaries were captured by the FAPLA forces, who also seized 20,000 rounds of ammunition, more than 100 light and heavy weapons, mines of various types, several dozen handgrenades, and other military equipment.

A total of 62 people who were abducted by the bandits and taken to the jungle were freed during that period.

74 Government, 4 Cuban Troops Killed 17-19 Mar

PA242350 Paris AFP in Spanish 2303 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Lisbon, 24 Mar (AFP) — A communique by UNITA published in Lisbon today reports that 74 Angolan and 4 Cuban soldiers were killed in the past few days by UNITA guerrillas.

The government and Cuban troops were killed in clashes which occurred from 17 to 19 March in three provinces of Angola, the communique added.

For its part, the movement headed by Jonas Savimbi sustained two dead, seven wounded, and two missing, the communique added.

Accord on Training of Youths Signed With GDR

MB191349 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, received a message from Eric Honecker, chairman of the GDR Council of State, in Luanda this morning.

This message was conveyed verbally by Kurt Kleinert, state secretary and director of the GDR Council of Ministers. Yesterday, continuing his official visit to Angola, Kurt Kleiner signed an accord on the training of Angolan youths in fields related to government. The Angolan side was represented by Flavio Fernandez, secretary of the Council of Ministers, who had invited the GDR official to Angola.

Within the framework of these accords, Angolan students will have the opportunity to attend the GDR's [words indistinct] as well as the [words indistict] science institute between 1986 and 1991.

MADAGASCAR

Chinese President Arrives for 4-Day Visit

AB241555 Paris AFP in French 1431 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Antananarivo, 24 Mar (AFP) — PRC President Li Xiannian arrived in Antananarivo this afternoon for a 4-day visit to Madagascar. He was welcomed at the Ivato International Airport by the Malagasy president, Didier Ratsiraka, and several members of his government. A 21-gun salute was fired in his honor. The Chinese president was coming from Somalia where he had paid a 4-day official visit.

MOZAMBIQUE

Six 'Bandits' Killed in Inhambane Province

MB191134 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] A total of six armed bandits have been killed by the Mozambique Armed Forces in Libomb area, Jangamo District, Inhambane Province. The bandits were killed last Thursday following an operation mounted by the FPLM, which also resulted in the destruction of an armed bandit camp and the capture of war materiel.

Also in Inhambane Province, in Malaia area to be precise, 21 armed bandits handed themselves over to our authorities with their respective weapons. Reports from Morrumbene reveal that another five bandits who handed themselves over recently are in the process of being reintegrated into society.

29 'Terrorists' Killed in Maputo

MB220722 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Mozambican security forces killed 29 South African-backed MNR terrorists in a suburb of Maputo last night. An AIM reporter visited the scene this morning and counted the corpses. The terrorists had killed five civilians while trying to carry out acts of sabotage in the areas of (Mulutene), Salala and (Soninase) earlier in the night. The terrorist group was ambushed by the security forces before dawn and survivers were being pursued. The bandit gang had kidnapped 15 people but all were freed when the army moved in. The army reports that 17 other MNR terrorists were killed in other parts of Maputo Province on Monday and Thursday of this week.

NAMIBIA

Proposal on Administrative Division Discussed

MB201323 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1321 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Windhoek, March 20, SAPA — A cabinet committee of the SWA/Namibian transitional government began meeting today to discuss proposals to divide the territory into six administrative regions controlled by the central government, political sources reported in Windhoek.

A document, jointly complied by the SWA National Union and SWAPO-Democrats in the government, forced the basis of the discussions.

The meeting was seen as an effort by the government to arrive at an interim arrangement that would move away from the politically controversial Proclamation AG 8 in SWA/Namibia, which provides for the institution of 11 second-tier ethnic authorities. The sources said the proposals were particularly aimed at preventing another "AG 8 budget" from being prepared this year before June.

In terms of the proposals each region, also described as provinces, would be administered by regional councils whose members would be recruited from the present ethnic legislative assemblies. Each council would be headed by a governor and deputy governor.

The central government would appoint eight councillors — each representing a cabinet minister — to each region, who would be assigned with carrying out central government policy, and all second-tier functions would be centralised. Where two or more ethnic authorities found themselves in the same province, agreement on power-sharing would have to be negotiated.

Sources said there was general agreement on a geographic division of SWA/Namibia, but some government members felt the delimitation should be done by experts to ensure an equitable distribution of the population in the various provinces.

SOUTH AFRICA

White Policeman Shot, Burned in Crossroads

MB251047 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1034 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, March 25, SAPA — A young white policeman was found shot dead and burnt in Mahobe Drive near Crossroads squatter camp early today.

A police spokesman said the body of the Guguletu-based constable — whose identity was known but was being withheld until his relatives had been notified — was off duty at the time of the attack.

While police were conducting investigations at the scene about 10.55am today, shots were fired nearby and police took cover. Police immediately moved to counter an expected attack and further shots were heard, but it was not known whether they were fired by police or whether anyone was wounded.

In nearby Old Klipfontein Road, at least two vehicles were set alight while investigations were being carried out and police and troops rushed to the scene to put out the fires.

Lieutenant Attie Laubscher, a police liaison officer, said police were notified of the body about 7am. The possibility that he had been killed about 30m into Crossroads and that his body had then been dragged into the road was being inevstigated. Police spokesmen in Pretoria said his car had disappeared.

It is not known what time he was killed, but a local resident said he had heard about 7am that there was a body in the street near the intersection with Sihlanu Avenue. When he arrived there the man was dead and a crowd was standing around.

Reporters allowed into the cordoned-off investigation area saw the dead man lying on his back. He seemed to have been stripped before refuse and a sack were placed on top of him. Bricks were scattered around his head and it seems the body had been stoned where it was set alight.

Police sealed off the area with casspirs and senior police officers, including Brigadier Ronnie van der Westhuizen, CID [criminal investigation division] chief for the Western Cape, and his deputy, Colonel Nick Acker, went to the scene. They were joined by members of the murder and robbery squad, some of whom were armed with sub-machineguns.

Reaction unit members took up positions near the scene and some climbed on the roofs of Crossroads shacks to obtain better vantage points. As policemen were about to leave the area there were popping noises, like the sound of a light-calibre weapon. One policeman yelled "Pasop, pasop" [look out] while others took shelter behind vehicles.

Reporters were ordered out of the area immediately and detectives grabbed weaponry from the boots of cars. A casspir which had been part of the cordon drove off through back streets. Further shots were heard but it could not be established who was firing. Then there was quiet.

Lt Laubscher told the press to leave as an officer felt they were causing a crowd to gather. It was pointed out to him that a crowd had been present before the press arrived, but reporters were told to leave.

Investigating Policeman Killed

MB251140 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1130 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, March 25, SAPA — Two policemen — one of whom had been suspended for alleged drug dealing — were shot dead in separate incidents near the Crossroads squatter camp today.

The body of the suspended policeman, a young constable who had been stationed at Guguletu, was found about 7am in Mahobe Drive next to Crossroads.

He had been shot and stoned and his body had been covered with garbage and set alight. First news reports indicated that the suspended officer had been the victim of a "necklace" killing because the body had been found burning.

About 12.30pm, a policeman apprently deployed in the area after the murder, died after being shot in the eye in Eisleben Road near Crossroads.

The second killing happened after shots were fired at policemen investigating the first death. The shots were fired about 1055am and police took cover. Police moved to counter an expected attack and further shots were heard, but it was not known whether they were fired by police or whether anyone was wounded.

ANC 'Insurgent' Killed Near Germiston

MB251135 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1109 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 25, SAPA — An ANC insurgent was shot dead by police yesterday morning in Kathlehong, a black township near Germiston, the SAP Public Relations Division in Pretoria said today.

The man, whom police would not name, was killed when he stormed police with a Russian-made handgrenade when they arrived at a house in the township, a police statement said.

Police went to the house as a result of information supplied by black members of the public, the division said.

Terrorist weapons, including AKMS guns, ammunition, and nuts and bolts, which are sometimes fitted to limpet mines as additional schrapnel, were found in the house. Police suspect that the insurgent, and possibly accomplices, were responsible for a terror attack and an attempted attack in Springs recently.

Banks, Standstill Committee Reach Consensus

MB241516 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1513 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, March 24, SAPA — The major creditor banks and the South African Standstill Co-ordinating Committee [SCC] had reached a "broad consensus of agreement", the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, announced today.

In a statement issued in Cape Town, the minister said Dr Fritz Leutwiler, the mediator, had announced in London last month that a "broad consensus of agreement had been reached." It could now be confirmed, he said, that all outstanding issues had been disposed of at a meeting of the major creditor banks and the SCC which took place in London today.

As a result of the meeting, the Leutwiler proposal would now come into effect on April 1 as envisaged, Mr du Plessis said.

At the time of Dr Leutwiler's announcement in London, he intimated that a small technical group would be formed by the creditor banks to have further discussions with the SCC on the finalisation of the arrangements for the implementation of the proposal.

"Over the past few weeks, extensive negotiations took place between this technical working group of the banks and the SCC and a full meeting of representatives of the major creditor banks and members of the SCC took place in London today.

"It can now be confirmed that all outstanding issues have been disposed of at this meeting, and that the Leutwiler proposal will now come into force on April 1, 1986, as envisaged," Mr du Plessis said.

"In consultation with Dr Leutwiler, the major creditor banks and the SCC have agreed on two important modifications to the proposal of February 20, 1986. "First, it has been agreed to extend the termination date of the interim arrangement from March 31, 1987, as originally agreed, to June 30, 1987.

"The major creditor banks have now agreed to maintain their exposure to South African borrowers at not less than 95 per cent of the present level until the end of June 1987, and South Africa will lift the repayment restrictions on five per cent of the affected debt that has already reached maturity or that will mature up to June 30, 1987.

"Second, it has been agreed that the five per cent in respect of all debt already matured or maturing before April 15, 1986, will now be released in one amount on April 15, 1986.

"In the case of debt maturing between April 15, 1986 and June 30, 1987, the five per cent will be released on the original maturity dates of the relevant debt."

The statement continued: "A meeting between the major creditor banks and South Africa will take place in September 1986 to review progress made up to that time, and a major review of the situation will take place in April next year.

"The South African Reserve Bank has, in the meantime, made the necessary arrangements to provide for any withdrawals of released funds on or after April 15, 1986. It will not be necessary for the bank to acquire any additional foreign exchange for this purpose from the local foreign exchange market.

"It should, furthermore, be pointed out that the lifting of the restriction on the repayment of funds does not necessarily mean that the funds will be withdrawn from South Africa.

"Each South African debtor will, of course, be in a position to negotiate with foreign lenders for a possible voluntary extension of released funds, and potential new borrowers of foreign funds should also now be in a better position to negotiate for new loans."

"In terms of the interim arrangement, indeed, it is required of existing South African borrowers of foreign funds, where existing loan contracts have already matured, to renegotiate their loan arrangement with their foreign creditors and to agree to new conditions in compliance with the agreement.

"Details of the arrangement will be made available to all South African authorised dealers in foreign exchange within the next few days, and existing South African debtors are requested to contact their bankers in this regard as soon as possible.

"The interim arrangement has now been agreed to by South Africa's major creditor banks, and Dr Leutwiler has also submitted the fianal detailed arrangements to the other bank creditors holding smaller claims on South African debtors.

"These smaller bank creditors have been asked to give their support to the implementation of the interim arrangement. Debt due to non-bank creditors will, at this juncture, be treated in a similar way, but further discussions are still taking place in this regard."

"This interim debt arrangement has been negotiated in a relatively short period of time and should be seen as an effort to return normality to south Africa's international financial relations. It is based on a sense of goodwill, mutual faith and understanding for a difficult situation by all parties concerned.

"I should like to express the appreciation of the South African Government for the way in which the arrangement has been concluded and the dedication and acumen of the SCC's negotiating team," Mr du Plessis concluded.

Further on President Botha's Remarks on Sanctions

MB241808 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] The state president says if attempts to impose economic sanctions against South Africa encourages violance and revolutionary change, Western leaders would have to rethink their role in this unwarranted campaign. Mr Botha opened the third world congress for Brahman breeders in Johannesburg today.

[Begin video] [Correspondent Jan van Niekerk] Mr Botha said the apparent motivation for foreign economic pressure against South Africa was presented as an attempt to coerce this country into acquiring reformist policies. It was ironic, however, that the uncalled for intervention in the country's domestic affairs came at the very time when we were in the most dramatic phase of fundamental reform.

[Botha] We must therefore see something sinister in both the motivation and the timing of calls for economic sanctions against us, particularly from Western countries. The third irony lies in the possible effect of economic sanctions. Those actions would mainly be detrimental to the underprivileged and the poor, thus mainly, the black community.

[Van Niekerk] Mr Botha said South Africa believed in a democratic system of governmet. We believe in a sovereignty of the law as the basis for the protection of the fundamental rights of individuals and groups.

[Botha] The extent to which these values are upheld in practice in this country is relatively unique in this continent. We dare not and we shall not turn our backs on our centuries-old heritage in this regard to surrender to the forces of leftist revolutionary camps. We are not fooled by the (?pretence) of those who seek our [word indistinct] downfall.

[Van Niekerk] Mr Botha said the extent of our task was starkly illustrated by the situation on the rest of our continent. To the north lies the states of Africa on a continent dying of hunger, disease, an poverty.

[Botha] South Africa wishes to take up its responsibilities here at home [word indistinct] but [word indistinct] we have been caught in the crossfire of the international struggle between the power blocs of the world. The result was that this country has in many areas been deliberately isolated from the rest of Africa, which is unfortunate and unnecessary. [end video]

Botha: Munsieville Residents Not To Be Moved

MB211635 Johannebsburg SAPA in English 1629 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, Mar 21, SAPA — The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, today said established residents of the Munsieville area would not be moved and the area would not extended.

Announcing this in a press statement released in Cape Town, Mr Botha said the building of the proposed K17 road in Munsieville would be financed because it would become a buffer between it and Dan Pienaar.

The buffered zone would further be safeguarded by the erection of safety fences, high-mast lighting and patrolling, the statement said.

Munsieville has been the scene of repeated attacks on blacks from militant whites objecting to the black township hemmed in by white suburbs in Krugersdorp.

Mr Botha's announcement follows a meeting with Mr Leon Wessels (NP [National Party] Krugersdorp) in Tuynhuys yesterday.

According to the statement the state president studied documents and a petition with 11,000 signatures from "inhabitants who are affected by the dispute." He also satisfied himself with the view of the minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, with whom the matter was considered before the statement was made.

Heunis Submits Plan for Potchefstroom Development

MB210632 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0625 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Pretoria, March 21, SAPA — The minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, today released the draft guide plan for Potchefstroom which he said laid down guide lines for "the orderly spatial" development of the town.

Mr Heunis said in a statement released in Pretoria that the plan, made available for representations and comments, was compiled by a committee representative of all interested government institutions.

"The importance of Potchefstroom as educational, military and regional service centre is recognised in the draft guide plan and was also accepted by the guide plan committee as a point of departure in the formulation of a development policy for the town," Mr Heunis said.

To develop Potchefstroom to its full potential, he said, the guide plan committee believed the following should service as a guide line:

—Fragmentation of business development must be avoided;
—Future extension and development must be planned in such a way as to make provision for employment opportunities;
—Provision must also be made for the fast growing housing needs, especially those of the black and colored population; and
—Open spaces, where the need for outdoor recreation could be met, must be timely identified and protected against encroachment by urban development.

Embassy Confirms Nonattendance at London Talks

MB201311 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1257 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 20, SAPA — The South African Embassy in London confirmed today that it would not be represented at an international conference on South Africa taking place in England next week — and neither would the government or the National Party.

The banned ANC is reported to have been invited, and the embassy said in a statement that it had been concerned to learn that the organisation might be represented at a conference at which British Government ministers might be present.

"This would be contrary to our understanding of British Government policy on contact with that organisation. We have since learned that no ministers of the British Government will be present," it said.

A Foreign Office spokesman confirmed that there were no plans for ministers to attend.

The conference, on the theme "South Africa in Crisis", has been organised by the government-funded institution, Wilton Park Conferences in West Sussex. A wide range of South African industrialists, academics and politicians have been invited, with representatives from black states and several European governments.

It was reported from Cape Town yesterday that a National Party MP, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, the party's Transvaal information officer, had also been invited.

Conference organisers are refusing to disclose the identity of participants. "This is an off-the-record conference and no information of any sort will be issued," a spokeswoman said.

It is understood that among the South Africans invited are Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, the former leader of the PFP [Progressive Federal Party], and Dr Alex Boraine, until recently a PFP MP. Representatives of Inkatha, the Soweto Civic Association, the Media Workers Association and the UDF [United Democratic Front] are also expected to attend.

African states on the list include Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Western countries expected to be represented are Australia, Canada, France, West Germany and Britain.

Boraine: Absence 'Short-Sighted'

MB211746 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1740 GMT 21 March 86

[Text] London, March 21, SAPA — Former PFP [Progressive Federal Party] MP Dr Alex Boraine has accused the South African Government of being "desperately short-sighted" for refusing to take part in conference in England to discuss South Africa's future.

The ANC has been invited to the conference, and yesterday the South African Embassy in London confirmed that neither the government nor the National Party would be represented. A wide range of South African businessmen, politicians and representatives of black organisations have been invited, along with delegates from the Front-Line States and some Western Countries.

Dr Boraine, who has arrived in London, was quoted in a report published here today as saying: "I think this is desperately short-sighted. The one thing we vitally need is for the South

African Government to meet its protagonists on neutral territory. This would have afforded a marvellous opportunity."

The conference has been organised by the British Government-funded institution "Wilton Park Conferences" in West Sussex.

A National Party MP, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, was reported to have accepted an invitation but apparently told not to attend after it was learned that the ANC would probably be present. The conference opens on Sunday and runs for three days. Organisers have said it will be behind closed doors and that no information "of any sort" will be disclosed.

Conference Cancelled

MB241219 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0500 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] A London conference, dubbed a trial national convention for South Africa, has been canceled because of the nonparticipation of some of those who were expected.

Conference director Geoffrey Denton said last night that despite the setback, informal discussions are to continue among those present. He had earlier stressed the planned conference that was due to open last night was not intended to be a negotiating forum or a trial national convention.

HNP Head Demands Farmer Debt, Interest Moratorium

MB191531 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1510 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 19, SAPA — The HNP [Reformed National Party] leader, Mr Jaap Marais, today called for an immediate debt and interest moratorium in the agricultural sector, applicable to the whole of the summer rainfall area.

In a statement, Mr Marais said more and more farmers were losing their farms after the unprecedented rise in farm debts which resulted from successive droughts and low government-fixed produce prices.

If further bankruptcies were not prevented, Mr Marais said, land prices would fall so low that the "security value" of the greater part of South Africa's farm lands would be threatened. This would drive thousands of other farmers from the land.

The principle should now be accepted that the entire country — and not only the nation's 10,000 farmers — should share the burden of South Africa's unpredictable climate, he said.

The agricultural debt burden of R10 billion affected by a standstill would have to be repaid over a long period through a general levy on all agricultural produce, to be collected at trade level. This would prevent the financial collapse of the country districts of Transvaal, the Free State, and parts of Natal and the Cape, Mr Marais said.

House of Assembly's 'Own Affairs' Budget Detailed

MB211722 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] The own affairs budget for the administration of the House of Assembly published in Cape Town indicates that 4.8 billion rand is needed for the new financial year. Three billion rand has been allocated to education and culture, and 716 million rand to health and welfare. Just under 530 million rand is required for agriculture and water supplies, 271 million rand for local government, housing, and works; and 225 million rand has been allocated for the improvement of conditions of service.

Inflation for February Drops to 18.1 Percent

MB210815 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0802 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 21, SAPA — South Africa's inflation rate dropped 2.6 per cent to stand at 18.1 percent for February, according to figures released in Pretoria today.

A statement by the Central Statistical Service [CSS] said the lower inflation rate of 18.1 per cent, compared with 20.7 per cent for January, was mainly attributed to the fuel price increase which was taken into account in the calculation of the index for February.

"The substantial decrease is, therefore, essentially a technical decline since the calculation of the annual rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index [CPI] for February 1986 is based on a relatively higher basis than was the case for the calculation of the annual rate of increase up to January 1986, the CSS said.

"A similar phenomenon can be expected in respect of the April 1986 index as a result of the increase in sales tax from 10 per cent to 12 per cent which was taken into account in the calculation of the April 1985 consumer price index."

The CPI for all income groups in February stood at 215.8 (base 1980: 100), compared with 213.8 in January, and 102.8 a year ago.

The index for food reached 213.5, down from 214.7 in January, and above the 180.8 for February 1985, while the commodity index rose to 212.9 compared with 211.2 in January and 177.5 in February 1985.

The year-on-year inflation rates by income groups for February are:

— Lower income group: inflation rate of 17.3 per cent (CPI: February 210.4, January 209.3, February 1985, 179.3).

— Middle income group: 18.1 per cent (CPI: February 218.0, January 216.1, February 1985, 184.6).

— Higher income group: 18.2 per cent (CPI: February 216.1, January 213.8, February 1985, 182.8).

'Indefinite' Consumer Boycott Begins in Pretoria

MB241208 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0938 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 24, SAPA — An indefinite consumer boycott by blacks of white-owned shops started in Pretoria today amidst confusion. Conflicting pamphlets regarding the starting date of the boycott and demands of the organisers have been circulated in the townships.

Called by the Pretoria Consumer Boycott Committee (PCBC), it is the second such boycott in recent months to hit retailers. The first, held over the festive season, shook many shops as the base of black buying power was withdrawn.

The Pretoria Consumer Boycott Committee (PCBC) has denounced "bogus" pamphlets distributed in the townships which called for a six-month boycott of work, school and white shops. The pamphlets, purported to have been written by the PCBC, stated that the boycott of white shops, schools and work would start on April 7 and end on September 30.

The pamphlets said no one could leave townships without the permission from "comrades." The boycott would be strictly applied by the "comrades," the pamphlet said. There would be no compromise, only sacrifice, the pamphlet said.

A spokesman for the PCBC said the pamphlets were issued by "oppressive forces posing as comrades" to create confusion in the townships. Our campaigns are planned by the multitudes in the townships and if people are in doubt about any action they should consult their area committees," he said.

The spokesman produced a "genuine" pamphlet which only called for an indefinite boycott of white shops from today.

Reasons for the PCBC's call for a boycott include:

— The failure to remove the security forces from the townships;
— The continued service of police and councillors;
— The refusal to re-instate all workers who had been "unfairly dismissed;"
— The "reluctance" to lower rents; and
— The continued banning of COSAS [Congress of South African Students].

Businessmen 'To Stand Firm'

MB241207 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0749 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 24, SAPA — Pretoria businessmen have decided to stand firm against the planned black boycott of white businesses in the city and emergency plans have been drawn up to man shops and businesses if the planned mass stayaway of workers hits hard.

A spokesman of an ad hoc committee of Pretoria businessmen said a survey had established that the stayaway — if the city's black workers gave in to demands — would inevitably result in confrontation between the city work force and employers.

The spokesman said the committee had advised employers to make it clear to workers that they would face being phased out in favour of unskilled labour if they stayed away. Employers had also been advised to maintain communications with workers to assess developments.

Mr Adriaan Willemse, chairman of the city's Wek en Leef [Work and Live] organisation said the body had a list of nearly 200 people who could step in immediately and take over the work of black stayaway workers.

"It doesn't matter what sort of work, whether it be pick and shovel work, packing tins on shop shelves or whatever," he said.

Mr Johan Mulder, chairman of the city's Afrikaanse Sakekamer [Afrikaans Chamber of Commerce], said a plan of action had been evolved to deal with the boycott, scheduled to start on April 1.

Company To Supply Workers

MB211300 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1102 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 21, SAPA — A Pretoria man plans to organise an "instant staff" to help city companies hit by strikes.

Mr Pieter Vermaak said he first thought of the idea during the current wave of strikes that have hit Pretoria firms, including Noristan.

"I can provide an instant force drawn from white, coloured and Indian unemployed workers to help out factories or companies where regular staff have downed tools."

He said he would run his "strike force" on a commission basis for providing the companies with temporary staff, while the stand-in workers would also be paid. Mr Vermaak said he already had a pool of about 60 workers he could draw on, and he hoped to provide employees with basic skills — who could receive further training from the companies they were helping out — as well as specialised occupations, such as drivers. He would check that all members of the "strike force" were reliable.

Port Elizabeth Warned on Beaches, Langa

MB220659 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0644 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Port Elizabeth, March 22, SAPA — A stern warning has been given that Port Elizabeth [PE] City Council cannot continue to practice apartheid and retain the support of major foreign and South African companies.

The warning comes from the Executive Council of the Midland Chamber of Industries.

In a statement released today, it said the executive had resolved to "bring to the notice of the city council — and the people of PE — the grave results that are flowing out of the inability of the PE City Council to recognise what it has to do in order to ensure that multinational companies can continue to operate in this city.

"The chamber recognises that political issues are extremely sensitive and generate emotions, but the hard facts of reality are that PE cannot hope to retain the support of foreign and large South African company investment in the city, and practice apartheid. The council should recognise this and try and ease the pressure on these companies.

"The city of Port Elizabeth has positively faced up to today's reality in many areas, such as the opening of the CBD [Central Business District] to all race groups. In addition, there is no longer any discrimination in factories, and cinemas are open to all race groups.

"Against this background, it is difficult to understand the lack of courage by certain councillors to vote for the opening of all the beaches under its jurisdiction.

"To ensure the viability of industry, and the livelihood of its citizens, the executive committee appeals to all city councillors to support councillor Ivan Krige's motion that all the beaches of Port Elizabeth be opened to all races from July 1.

"If the city council is anxious about such issues as the potential of overcrowding in the peak summer period, then it ought to invite any interested group or organization to put forward recommendations in this regard, but it should accept that from July 1 the beaches be open to all.

"A second area of immediate concern is the potential for further unrest in the eastern Cape if the squatters from the Langa township were to be forcibly evicted from their homes.

"In the current climate of trying to make reform work it would be wise for officials to accept that out of necessity, all existing urban areas such as Langa should be recognised and retained.

"With emotions running very high on the Langa issue, the Executive Council strongly appeals to the authorities to explore a new deal for the Langa residents within the existing boundaries of their suburb."

KaNgwane To Take Over Administration Functions

MB191834 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1830 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, March 19, SAPA — The KaNgwane government is to take over all development, administration and township management functions in its territory from South Africa as soon as possible after April 1, it was announced here today.

Provision is to be made for the continuation of specific services by means of "appropriate agreements".

A joint statement released by the ministers of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, and of education and development aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, and the chief minister of Kangwane, Mr E.J. Mabuza, said "constructive" discussions had taken place in the city today between representatives of the South African Government and the KaNgwane cabinet on "various issues of common concern".

In addition to the transfer of functions, it was agreed that KaNgwane would proceed with legislation to provide for the establishment of local authorities to administer its towns.

In the meantime the present town councils would be fully involved in the planning, development and administration of their towns. A number of measures had been agreed on to meet the "urgent and specific" needs of the towns of KaNyamazane and Matsulu.

In KaNyamazane, these included the extension of electricity reticulation to a further 2,000 houses over the next two years and funding of self-building schemes.

In Matsulu the improvement of the water supply, additional funding of self-building loans, expansion of the electricity reticulation system and the upgrading of the access road.

It was also agreed that technical assistance would be rendered by the Department of Development Aid in collaboration with the government of KaNgwane to assist people to erect their own homes.

KaNgwane Chief Minister Mabuza Interviewed

MB201012 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 19 Mar 86 p 6

[By Hellouise Truswell]

[Text] Chief Minister of KaNgwane, Nganani Enos John Mabuza, a man who travels widely and has met both Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan, does not indulge in verbal overkill.

Rather, the chill factor of what he says is generated by quietly enunciated verities. Without making an inventory of apartheid's calamitous potential, he underscores with relentless intensity the level of anger and frustration that runs like a serpent through the black community.

Mabuza and a 21-man delegation recently met the ANC in Lusaka. As chairman of the Inyandza National Movement, he was given a mandate to meet the leadership of the ANC. Pivotal to the discussions were the current unrest situation and the future of this country.

The ANC violently rejects homeland leaders, whom they perceive as SA government puppets. Why, I ask Mabuza, did the ANC talk to him for three days? What was the common ground that made him acceptable?

"You would have to ask them," he says. "But the common ground is a nonracial, democratic society in SA. However, we remain committed to peaceful change. The ANC remains committed to the arms struggle until such time as government releases political prisoners, unbans political organisations, dismantles apartheid and negotiates with credible leaders in the country."

What has he done to change ANC entrenched perceptions and attitudes towards homeland leaders?

Mabuza: "I think they recognise we are striving for a democratic, nonracial society within the legal precincts. They accept our bona fides in that regard. We have expressed our belief that homelands are not a political solution for our country."

Then why does Mabuza align himself with the homeland system which he rejects? At this stage he is going along with it, he affirms. "But I am sure conditions will arise which may require that I resign or that I step down."

He does not hesitate to air his view on homelands. "The homelands were not created on the basis of a decision by the majorityof blacks in this country. Government designed the plan and all we had to do was fit into the plan, be it in pendular or triangular or sectional form. Blacks didn't decide on it.

"If the Indian Council or the Coloured Representative Council could be dismantled, the homelands can also be dismantled. We should look for a new dispensation which would be acceptable to the majority of blacks. Homelands are not."

Currently he sees himself as working towards an objective in the homelands. What is it?

"Look, we have a train here. It's careening to an abyss, probably driven by some lunatic who doesn't care what happens when the train falls into such an abyss. If one is capable of applying brakes and stopping or reversing it...I think that is my duty in the homelands juction called KaNgwane.

"At least I can bring to a halt to KaNgwane becoming an independant state, which is the logical conclusion of the policy and thereby de-nationalising 1-million SA-born Swazis. I have a role to play in seeing that the policy doesn't achieve its objectives."

Is he a member of the ANC? He laughs: "The ANC is not a legal organisation in SA. Categorically, I am not a member of the ANC. I am a member and leader of my Inyandza National Movement."

"But what I would like to say is that it appears as if government and many of the whites are oblivious of the obvious support of the ANC in the country. Nobody can quantify support because no one can say I am a paid-up member of the ANC. From my assessment of the situation and in my own territory, and especially among the young people there is overwhelming support for the ANC."

I ask him whether Nelson Mandela has become a token figurehead who is irrelevant in current black politics. "He was relevant when he was imprisoned and I believe he is still relevant today. If he would be irrelevant that is a question that would be decided by his supporters in an open political marketplace.

"I have reason to assume he is still very relevant until the contrary is proved. The contrary will be proved by his leadership if he were to be released and the relationship of that leadership with the masses."

What is the view of Mabuza — an honours psychology graduate who is the author of several text books — on the subject of violence? "Violence can only be an option by the people if they are forced into it."

What are regarded as legitimate forces to allow violence to be an option? "If the people were driven to a state where all options for peaceful opposition to the policies of the country were unavailable, especially the denial of political rights and the relegation of blacks to socio-economic subserviency. If the state brought all its might to ensure and perpetuate that..."

How does he see the present situation? "There are legitimate grievances in the townships to be addressed. Beyond that there are the aspirations of blacks to elect their own leaders to represent them in the highest political institutions of the country."

How does he feel about the latest round of reform proposals? "I think here it is a question of whether apartheid is being dismantled or reformed."

Blacks want to see dismantling of apartheid. For example, says Mabuza: "If passes are going to be removed and you are going to have a common identity book, it won't work as long as the Population Registration Act is on the statute book.

"Whites will have serial numbers which immediately declare them white. I will have a different serial number and the computer will say black. Go and look for him where he stays. As the state president has said, apartheid is outmoded. It should be dismantled, not reformed. Let's remove these outmoded structures. That will be real reform."

Is he optimistic about concrete changes? "I have heard about it. My people have heard about it. But they haven't experienced it. They haven't felt it. There is a vast difference between hearing and feeling and experiencing ..."

The rejection of educational disciplines for what they are worth at the moment must have an enormously deleterious effect on the future of youth. What is his view of this?

"Most of these youngsters openly support the ANC. And the ANC is a banned organisation. Their leaders are in exile. Their leaders are in prison. Now how do you expect thousands if not millions of young people who believe in leaders who are in prison or in exile, to have appropriate direction in the absence of those leaders?

"I think this should drive sense into the minds of government to release political prisoners unconditionally and to unban the ANC. I have no doubt that if these leaders come to the country and are invited to the conference table, there will be co-ordinated action and reaction by the young people."

The goal, he stresses, is a non-racial, democratic society. Is it also a one-man-one-vote situation?

"Definitely. About that there is no hesitation in my mind. I must say here that I'm not in favour of a federal system, and I believe that most of our people aren't, either."

What about participating in the new statutory body suggested in Parliament? "The blacks have said they are prepared to negotiate. But before they do so they would like to see political prisoners released. And they would like to see political organisations unbanned.

"Personally, I believe that in spite of whatever strategies they might have used, these political prisoners were imprisoned because of what I believe in: a democratic country where every South African regardless of race, colour and creed will have the right to vote for his or her leaders. They believe in that. My view personally is that it would be sacrilege, political sacrilege on my part, to negotiate behind their backs ..."

He refuses to divulge any matters which were discussed with the ANC because it is a banned organisation and may not be quoted. What he is prepared to say is that one important factor emerged: the necessity of unity amongst blacks especially, but also of all the people of this country in opposing apartheid.

"I think we should join forces. The message is loud and clear that in doing so there are no touchables and untouchables. If we all join forces we can bring about the correct pressure to bear upon government to drive the message home. Then we have a chance of averting disaster in the country."

When it comes to pressure, how does he see the role of trade unions?

"I think they will use their worker power quite efficiently in the future. But they can't elect a leader to go to Parliament to speak about their rights. That is why trade unions have no option but to practice politics on the factory floor and to use their muscle there to bargain for politcal rights."

There are no easy solutions, he admits. But time is short and and government needs to be bold, especially in overcoming white attitudes.

Mabuza: "Frankly, I think the problem in our country is that while many whites want to see peaceful change, they are very suspicious. I understand that suspicion and mistrust and I sympathise with them because I think they know that blacks have been under the boot of oppression for many generations.

"There is that fear that if blacks are treated as equals, the boot will be on the other foot and they will find themselves under it. I'm presently aware of whites who are highly suspicious of my visits to Lusaka in the interests of my country and my people. My heart bleeds when I note this suspicion and mistrust.

"I become very worried about the future of the country. Since I became chief minister I have tried to build bridges. We can only have hope in this country if whites will meet us as brothers and sisters on an equal basis and trust us. Remove suspicion and fears."

Vaal Townships 'Tense' as Death Threats Reported

MB251144 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1057 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Johannesburg, March 25, SAPA — Vaal Triangle townships were tense today and many people are reported to have stayed away from work after "necklace" threats by youths last night.

Residents said because of "threats of necklaces or burning through tyres" which spread through the townships of Sebokeng, Sharpeville, Zamdela, Bophelong, Evaton and Refengkgotso, many people believed it was better to stay at home.

Today in all the townships there were few taxis and buses. Residents believed taxi operators were threatened not to ferry people to work.

One resident said: "The townships are tense at the moment, buses have been withdrawn, taxis are not operating, everything seems to be at a standstill. I think following yesterday's aborted work stayaway, some people believe it is better to enforce it and because of threats of burning through tyres, people are afraid to go to work.

"There were ugly scenes yesterday when buses dropped people outside the townships. As people were walking home, some were shown tyres by youths who said they would be burned... if they went to work today."

Sources in Sebokeng said the situation was volatile and they reckoned that fewer people had ventured to work today than yesterday.

The Vaal Civic Association estimated yesterday's stayaway had been supported by 50 per cent of workers in Sebokeng. A spokesman for the Vaal Transport Corporation said buses had been withdrawn from Sebokeng at 11am yesterday and had operated only to the perimeter during the afternoon rush hour.

1,500 Van Dyks Drift Miners Stage Work Stoppage

MB241307 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1236 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, March 24, SAPA — Some 1500 black underground workers at the Van Dyks Drift colliery near Witbank had staged a "de-facto work stoppage" by refusing to follow laid-down mine entry and exit procedures, the colliery said in a statement in Johannesburg today.

The procedures involved clocking-in immediately prior to entering the mine via the personnel shaft, and clocking-out immediately upon return to surface.

Mr Nilo Zolezzi, managing director of Witbank colliery, the holding company of Van Dyks Drift, said the problem arose last week when the "crush" — or entry and exit control point — was moved from the mines hostel to a new personnel shaft on the property.

"It is normal procedure to keep the crush within a shaft complex, and therefore to keep moving it as new personnel shafts are commissioned — but our workers want it moved back to the hostel before they go back to work. They have given no explanation as to why they want it moved back, nor why they object to clocking-in at the shaft."

Mr Zolezzi said that the mines and works act imposed a "clear obligation" on management to ensure that no unauthorised person entered the mine, and that no unauthorised person remained underground after the conclusion of each shift. It was for this reason that entry and exit control points were established in the immediate vicinity of personnel shafts.

He said the mine had telexed the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) twice in an effort to resolve the situation.

"We are surprised that we have had no response to our telexes since NUM is supposed to be committed to improving safety on mines, and correct clocking-in procedures are fundamental to underground safety."

Van Dyks Drift has obtained a court interdict compelling the workers to comply with established entry and exit control procedures "thus restraining them from entering the mine without clocking-in at the shaft." said the statement.

"The stoppage has caused loss of earning to the workers and loss of production for three days," said Mr Zolezzi said in the statement.

Medunsa Black Students on 'Mass Stayaway'

MB241155 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1009 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 24, SAPA — Black students at the Medical University of South Africa (Medunsa) have embarked on a mass stayaway after last week's Supreme Court decision ordering the university to reinstate two white undergraduates whose registrations were cancelled last month.

This was confirmed by a Medunsa spokesman, who added that the two white students, Mr Pieter Kruger and Mr Darryl Wilke, had arrived on the campus today to resume their studies.

"But the situation is very fluid right now. With virtually all our black students boycotting classes, it a question of whether the staff will agree to teach only two students," the spokesman said.

Mr Kruger and Mr Wilke, who both hold B.Sc "pre- med" degrees, were accepted as third-year medical students at Medunsa in January.

After a boycott by students who said they were keeping out "deserving blacks," they were asked to leave the university and their tuition fees and other fees were returned to them by the rector, Professor L.T. Taljaard.

Giving judgment in an urgent application in the Pretoria Supreme Court last week, Mr Justice A. J. Heyns found the university had exceeded its authority in requesting Mr Kruger and Mr Wilke to leave and ordered their immediate reinstatement.

The judge found Medunsa, in making their decision to expel the two, had bowed to "mass thuggery" on the part of black students. Prof. Taljaard was "in urgent conference" today and could not be reached for comment.

2d Bail Application for Treason Trialists Refused

MB241159 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1102 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Delmas, March 24, SAPA — A second application for bail on behalf of the 22 men charged with treason, subversion, incitement to murder and furthering the aims of banned organisations, was refused on Friday.

The reason given was that the situation in the country had not changed sufficiently for bail to be granted.

The men, leaders of the United Democratic Front [UDF], the Vaal Civic Association, the Azanian Peoples Organisation and the Azanian Youth Unity were earlier refused bail.

Among the 22 are UDF leaders Mr "Terror" Lekota, Mr Popo Molefe and Mr Moss Chikane.

Alleged Police Station Bomber's Sister Released

MB201413 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1407 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Mar 20, SAPA — Security police have released Miss Debbie Sparg, sister of alleged police station bomber Miss Marion Sparg. This was confirmed by police headquarters in Pretoria today.

Miss Debbie Sparg was being held in terms of Section 29 of the Internal Security Act. She was detained soon after her sister Marion was detained by security police in connection with explosions at three police stations — Cambridge in East London, Hillbrow and John Vorster Square.

Security police are also holding a man in connection with the bombings. He has been identified as Mr Stephen Marais. Mr Marais was detained in Aliwai North soon after the hillbrow explosion on March 7. No details of Mr Marias have been released.

It is not yet known when Miss Marion Sparg and Mr Marais will appear in court in connection with the bombings.

Two Injured in Witwatersrand University Protest

MB210530 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2212 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, March 21, SAPA — A commemoration of the Sharpeville shooting held at the University of the Witwatersrand today erupted into violence with two people being assaulted by students.

The commemoration, organised by the Students Action Committee, an affiliate of the United Democratic Front, began with a "peoples' trial" when a young black woman was accused of being a police informer. The woman, who claimed to be studying German, was found to have a forged student card. A member of the audience claimed he had seen her in Alexandra during the arrest of a photographer, and the trial began.

There was no cross-examination of the "prosecutions" witness, although the woman was allowed to defend herself amid much heckling.

Organisers of the "trial" lost control of the situation and the crowd of 300 to 400 surged forward. The woman was saved by the university's security staff who pushed through the crowd and carried the woman to the safety of the SRC [Student Representative Council] building. Although relatively uninjured, the woman was reported to have suffered a few blows.

Not so lucky was Mr Derek Hadley, who was also attacked. Mr Hadley, watching the crowd running on campus, shouted something to the effect that "the police at Sharpeville were merely defending themselves."

Immediately the front runners cornered Mr Hadley. About 20 people attacked him with boots, fists and sticks. University security guards standing nearby made no attempt to protect him. When the crowd backed off, Mr Hadley was carried away.

13 Released by Transkei Security Police

MB211252 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1100 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Thirteen people, including the son of the Transkeian minister of agriculture, have been released by Transkei security police. Their detention followed an explosion in a car at Imbobo in February. The head of the Transkei security police, General Leonard Xawe, has confirmed that 11 people from the (Kakadu)-Lady Frere district, together with Mabandla Boyi and Mbonga Koyana, have been released.

Mr Boyi, the son of Minister E.Z. Boyi, and Mr Koyana, were traveling in the car at the time of the blast. An unidentified man was killed in the blast. Police say he was carrying the bag which contained the bomb.

Police Issue Latest Unrest Situation Reports

Late 24 Mar

MB241717 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1714 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 24, SAPA — The unrest situation report to 7pm from the SAP Public Relations Directorate in Pretoria follows:

"East Rand: A black male was injured when a mob of blacks stoned a bus at Ratanda near Heidelburg. And in the same area a black male above 18 was fatally wounded by the SAP during a stone throwing attack at a passenger bus.

"Northern Transvaal: At Mamelodi near Pretoria two private vehicles were set alight by arsonists.

"West Rand: A black male was wounded and arrested during an attack by stone throwers on a SAP vehicle in Sebokeng.

"Another black male was arrested in a petrol bomb attack on a private vehicle near Krugersdorp. A white female was slightly injured in a stone throwing attack on a private vehicle in Krugersdorp.

"Soweto (Jhb) [Johannesburg]: A black male and a black woman were arrested on charges of attempted murder after a black man was set alight with a tyre around his neck. The victim of this attack sustained serious injuries.

"Natal: Three black males have been arrested at Ferndale near Pietermaritzburg after an illegal gathering."

Ends report.

Early 25 Mar

MB250747 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0721 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, Mar 25, SAPA — A man was shot dead in Walmer in the eastern province last night after he and another man were seen inside a bottle store, police said today. Petrol bombs and a hammer were found on the dead man. The other man escaped, the Public Relations Division of the SAP said in their unrest report for last night and early this morning.

In other incidents of unrest in Walmer and Kwazakele, also in the eastern province, police vehicles were slightly damaged when petrol bombs were thrown at them.

A post office in Zwide near Port Elizabeth was badly damaged by petrol bombs by a mob who were dispersed by police using shotgun fire last night.

In another incident a bottle store was also badly damaged by fire and police used birdshot to disperse a crowd who barricaded a road. The home of a councillor was petrol bombed and an electricity transformer was extensively damaged by a petrol bomb. In all the incidents, no injuries were reported.

Other unrest incidents included:

— At the Bonteheuwel, a coloured residential area in the western province, the home of a policeman was petrol bombed.

— At Atteridgeville near Pretoria, a private home was damaged by petrol bombs.

— A vehicle of a construction company was set alight and destroyed in Soweto near Johannesburg.

— Three men who were setting alight a vehicle were arrested at the Vosloorus black residential area near Springs.

— A man was arrested when a police vehicle was stoned in Edendale township near Pietermaritzburg.

— A crowd was dispersed with teargas when they gathered illegally at Dukathole near Aliwal North.

Commentary Condemns Schlemmer Arson Attack

MB250718 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The attacks of arson at the home and office of Professor Lawrence Schlemmer in Durban, causing widespread damage and the loss of irreplaceable research material, provide a typical example of the methods of political radicals for whom the peaceful negotiation of South Africa's future is to be prevented at all costs.

Their onslaught is against democracy itself. South Africans who are committed to democracy and its techniques of negotiation and compromise dare not let them succeed.

The attacks were evidently aimed against Professor Schlemmer himself. He has played a leading role in preparations for the Natal-KwaZulu indaba, which opens in the Durban city hall next week to consider a new power structure for the region. He also did much of the research on the proposals for joint administration which were recently presented to the government.

The arson was an obvious intimidatory tactic to disrupt the indaba — a by now familiar tactic used against leaders of all groups who seek peaceful solutions on the basis of consensus and power sharing.

If there was any doubt about the purpose, it is removed by the words "no indaba" painted on the professor's office door at the university. Professor Schlemmer has presumably been a thorn in the flesh of the radicals for some time. He has worked closely with Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who has been outspoken in his rejection of violence to achieve political aims.

As an internationally respected academic and researcher Professor Schlemmer has also published research findings which have been anathema to those engaged in the politics of violence, such as the widely publicised finding that 75 per cent of black South African factory workers are opposed to disvestment, and that more than two-thirds of the country's blacks favour political change through negotiation rather than violence.

However valid the empirical evidence for such findings, they have marked him as an enemy of political radicalism.

In the black areas arson is only one of the intimidatory practices which have been perfected in keeping the unrest smouldering during the past eighteen months.

Equally well known, and widely feared by ordinary people, are the barbarous necklace murders, the wanton destruction of property, and the threats by gangs of youths against people who show reluctance in participating in mass demonstrations of violence and protest.

It is encouraging that in the Durban affairs, those engaged in an attempt to resolve matters of common interest around a conference table have given notice that they will not be put off by intimidation. It is just another obstacle that will have to be overcome by moderate leaders of all communities in South Africa who realise that a peaceful future depends on negotiated settlements.

Radio Criticizes Those Ignoring RSA's Reforms

MB240659 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 24 Mar 86

[Station commentary: "Speaking Out on Reform"]

[Text] In London Last week Dr Piet Koornhof, chairman of the president's council, remarked on a phenomenon which has the potential for causing far more damage to democratic aspirations in South Africa than is generally perceived. It is the submissive attitude, of governments and people of authority in the community, to the propagandist smokescreen erected by the political radicals and violent persuaders in South African society. While knowing better, they find it expedient to remain silent or even to join the chorus in spreading disinformation about reform in the country.

Although his message has a wider application, Dr Koornhof was addressing himself specifically to the West. It was irony with a vengeance, he said, that the indignation of the world community should have risen in direct proportion to the broadening of demcoracy and the removal of discrimination in South Africa. The West had had no qualms about maintaining normal relations in all spheres before the reform programme was launched, yet it now deemed it expedient to come to terms with leaders like Oliver Tambo.

Far from promoting peaceful reform, however, the new expediency is having the opposite effects, as Dr Koornhof said. It is encouraging and prolonging violence and discouraging moderate blacks from negotiating with the government. What is more, the confidence of the ordinary white South African in the justice and decency of the Western world has been badly damaged. And that as Dr Chester Crocker pointed out, speaking in Washington on the same day, has a further consequence. White South Africans would resist reform for as long as they felt threatened, he told Congress.

It is an undeniable fact that among whites there is strongly growing resentment against those who purvey, or silently acquiesce in, the campaign of lies and distortions about reform in South Africa. They are well aware that in the past five years and more there have been fundamental and wide-ranging changes in national life.

They know that there are few if any other countries in the world that have an equal record of improving socio-economic conditions and opportunities, and increasing democratic channels, for their peoples during this period. They are not impressed by nonsensical charges that nothing has changed except for the worse or by the accompanying threats.

There are, of course, among respected community leaders, those who are prepared to acknowledge this and take their stand on the side of genuine peaceful reform. Mr Harry Oppenheimer has referred to the very important reform program that has been initiated by the government, and to the courage shown by the state president. For this Mr Botha surely deserves credit, says Mr Oppenheimer, and adds: But he certainly does not get it. No past leader in South Africa has been subjected to such sustained, virulent, orchestrated attacks. And what is more, it must have seemed to him that these attacks were mounted by the very people for whose benefit he had put his political future at risk.

Too few, however, among those who are fully acquainted with the truth about reform in South Africa, are willing to speak out fearlessly. Their submissiveness is a greater danger to the democratic ideals they espouse than they realize.

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB240740 [Editorial Report]

Soweto Power Struggle

Johannesburg *SUNDAY TIMES* in English on 23 March reports on page 1 of its "extra" section that "a power struggle between the UDF [United Democratic Front] and AZAPO [Azanian People's Organization] is believed to be behind the gang warfare which erupted in Soweto this week — leaving at least eight dead in a spate of horrific killings. Now peace talks are going on between the warring factions. Most of the victims were stoned or burned to death in grisly killings." "According to sources in Soweto yesterday, the battle for political supremacy among rival contenders has played a big role in the violence. AZAPO is said to be making a determined bid to boost its credibility among the black community" before the Soweto anniversary protests. "The UDF — allegedly with ANC prompting — and Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha movement are other main groupings vying for black allegiance in the townships."

Gerrymandering the CP

"An expected new delimitation of white constituencies next year could ensure that the Progressive Federal Party [PFP] remains the official opposition in the Assembly after the next election — in spite of the growth of the rightwing conservative Party/HNP [Reformed National Party] coalition," the paper reports on page 2 of the regular first section. "Sweeping changes to the present system will have to be made to keep pace with population movements and urbanization." This will likely set off a conflict between the various white parties. Blacks will not be affected at all except to highlight that whites intend to hold further elections without black representation. According to population changes, the Transvaal should receive another 11 seats while the Cape will lose 9 and the Orange Free State and Natal 1 each. "It is suggested that instead of taking away seats from other provinces, the Government might also decide to abolish the system of eight indirectly elected MPs and give Transvaal eight more elected MPs." In the past, boundaries have been drawn to "unload" the rural seats, giving more representation for fewer people, because these seats traditionally went to the National Party. Most of these constituencies, however, are now CP strongholds.

Tension in Krugersdorp

On the same page, Max du Preez and Hilton Hamann report that "Krugersdorp, on the West Rand, is rapidly acquiring the unenviable reputation as the town which symbolises racially polarised South Africa. Yet, if its volatile mix of white fear and black anger can be resolved peacefully, many believe it could instead become a symbol of hope for the rest of the country. For the moment, though, the signs are not promising." White residents of the town of Dan Pienaarville had asked that the black township of Munsieville, located close by, be moved. Instead, the president decided to separate the two with a superhighway, security fencing, floodlights and patrols, dubbed the "Berlin wall." A CP councillor compared this with a concentration camp at Dachau and said the president " 'is going to treat these people like animals,' " saying there was much better ground in the location where whites wanted the blacks to be moved. A Krugersdorp MP said there were both whites and blacks who wanted " 'to cure the situation with violence. The temperature is running very, very high and I hope and pray we will be able to cool it down.' "

Outraged Artists

"Top South African artists are calling for a boycott of the formal opening of a new multi-million rand provincial theatre complex — because President P.W. Botha has been asked to open it," the paper reports on page 5. " 'It will alienate all black people who have anything to do with theater,' " said a potter who made a mural for the new Natal Playhouse. Another artist called the invitation a " 'disaster.' " " 'We need reconciliation. And, in my eyes, Mr Botha does not stand for reconciliation. Since he introduced the new constitution, there hasn't been a day's peace. People will see the invitation as yet another act of provocation.' "

Mixed Amanzimtoti Beaches

The paper reports on the same page that reservations for Easter holidays at Amanzimtoti are down 50 percent because of the town council's decision to open the beaches to all races and owners of holiday accomodation in the town are angry. Some blame the council for taking the lead when other neighboring, competing resorts retained closed beaches — and a boom in bookings. The town clerk said the decision had not been made lightly. He said it was naive not to think that the other resorts would be eventually opened and that " 'those who jump in the water first will be the first to dry.' "

Cataclysm Not Inevitable

In an editorial on page 30, the paper says that the Sharpeville events 25 years ago signified a new era in South Africa which the government failed to recognise and respond to, proceeding "mulishly with the folly of trying to make apartheid work." This began a long chain of violence events. Although the reform program is fine as far as it goes, "the great leap forward, a clear vision of an entirely new society — the only thing which, at this stage, can regain the initiative for President Botha's government — is still lacking. One has a sense that our rulers, while earnestly committed to change, have not yet defined their bottom line and that they have yet to squarely address the historic forces which are abroad in our land." While black anger mounts, conflict seems unavoidable. Yet "sensible South Africans refuse to accept the inevitability of a cataclysmic future." Instead "they prefer to confront the ultimate, cosmic question — head on — before it is too late."

Students Cautioned

In a second editorial on the same page, the paper says that universities should be places where students want to have contact with black movements. However, it was ironic that students should shout down the UNITA representatives at Witwatersrand University and that a gathering on that campus to mark the Sharpeville anniversary should "threaten to degenerate into a township-style lynching party." "In the intellectual ferment necessarily taking place over reform and black advancement, students should beware of the mobs and the yobs. They serve only the cause of chaos, not objectivity."

Unifying Education

An article by Stuart Saunders, vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town, on the same page says that without doubt, educational problems are one of the root causes for black frustration. He notes the many different educational authorities and says "the simple fact of the matter is that multiple departments of education at that level are costly and inefficient," and South Africa cannot afford them. "As long as there are multiple departments based on race there will be dissatisfaction and unhappiness" because "it is another form of apartheid. Separate cannot be equal." He estimates, however, that it will take two generations to achieve a truly equal educational system in the country. However, "South Africans need to believe that everything possible is being done to ensure that they reach that point of equal provision of education as soon as possible, and they will only live with the inevitable long time-lag period if they believe just that."

Police Behavior

On page 30 of the *SUNDAY TIMES*, Martie Meiring writes that one of the most disconerting things about the present situation is the charge that the police are "intimidating and acting as an agent provocateur," a view that is "very real and very sinister." The question of who the enemy is is a real one and at this point township residents believe the police is the enemy. Black parents who attempt to communicate their complaints to police fear arrest, because some arrests have been made. Many believe the police and the councils are allied against the community and these councils have been discredited. Meiring suggests an obmudsman as "the most logical answer to the appalling breakdown of confidence between the black communities and the security forces. Such an agent would certainly eliminate the present feeling that the 'higher' ranks in the security forces are being kept ignorant of the 'real' facts in the townships." Moderates want to be associated with the aspirations of the people and want a decisive say in the running of the township. They will not soon disassociate themselves from the strikes and stayaways. The police are in "a singular position to communicate" with the black communities. If they don't, it will suit the South African Communists just fine.

Verdict on the Budget

Cees Bruggemans writes on page 31 that Economics Minister Barend du Plessis is "in the unenviable position of being entrusted with the robes of an office that retains its traditional awe, without truly having been granted the power that should go with it." The Economics Ministry in South Africa, unlike any First World country, is ranked as a junior ministry, in part because the economy is expected to run itself. He notes, however, that the government will be judged not just on how well it arrives at a socio-political solution to the country's problems but also how well it runs the economy. He notes the country's lack of growth in the last five years and the rise of inflation. If Du Plessis actually holds to his budget targets, he must be commended. However, "the entire budget, by sidestepping any real hard decisions, appears to be one more preparatory step towards a political event, be it a referendum or general election," after which new taxes and spending may be implemented.

Businessmen on Budget

On page 1 of the *BUSINESS TIMES*, the paper carries a survey of chief executives of 70 of the country's biggest firms showing that "big business applauds this week's budget and thinks it will stimulate the economy — but several economists disagree." More than 80 percent of the businessmen described the budget as good to excellent and 87 percent thought it was stimulatory, compared to 51 percent who praised the budget last year. The finance minister also improved his rating from 29 percent approval to 58 percent. "The executives said tax concessions and increased social spending were the best features of the budget. They also applauded stimulation, the containment of state spending and the introduction of money-supply targets. Some criticised the bread subsidy cut and expressed disbelief about Mr du Plessis's numbers." Economists, however, questioned whether the budget would be stimulative. They also questioned that the government could hold to its spending targets. Finance Ministry officials, however, seemed confident that spending overruns could be contained.

No Aid for Wage Earner

"The budget has been applauded for being generous and stimulatory, but few wage and salary earners will be better off this year," Ciaran Ryan reports on page 3 of the *BUSINESS TIMES*. A large part of what is given in the form of the 5 percent tax discount will be taken back with the 7 percent surcharge. "The average wage or salary increase for 1986 of about 10 percent will move taxpayers into higher brackets. In addition, those with perks will be taxed more heavily. The final whammy will be inflation of at least 16 percent this year."

Whites Shoot at Black Schoolchildren

The Johannesburg *SUNDAY STAR* in English for 23 March reports on page 1 that another case of white motorists shooting at blacks has been reported, this time near Schweizer-Reneke in the Transvaal. It is believed that "several" of the four or five whites driving past a group of schoolchildren fired on them. One was wounded in the legs. Police are investigating but so far there have been no arrests.

Background to Pik Botha Reprimand

Political correspondent David Breier reports on page 10 that Verkrampte [ultraconservative] National Party [NP] divisions in the Transvaal wanted President Botha to fire Pik Botha after he said South Africa could have a black president. It is understood that President Botha resisted pressure to fire the foreign minister, who is considered as "indispensible" in handling South Africa's foreign relations and who also has strong support in the most verligte [enlightened] section of the party. But as a SOP to the Verkramptes, the president insisted that Pik Botha sign a letter admitting he was wrong "to compromise the NP by saying there could be a black state president. Had Mr Pik Botha not signed the letter, he would have been dropped from the Cabinet." According to some sources, the article reports, Education Minister F.W. de Klerk was asked to convey the Transvaal Nationalists' demand to the state president, though a spokesman for the NP says De Klerk was not involved. However, the article says, De Klerk's "political fortunes soared after the episode as he is linked with the rightwing of the party."

NP-CP 'Secret' Merger Talks

Another article by David Breier on the same page says "secret talks have started between right-wing Nationalists and the Conservative Party [CP] with the view to a future merger." There is no question of merger as long as President Botha heads the NP as he is seen as the prime mover in present NP policy which offends the CP. The CP is "incompatible" with the more verligte echelons of the NP, especially the minister of foreign affairs and his followers, and the CP would find it "impossible" to be in the same fold with Chris Heunis, minister of constitutional development and planning. The most likely scenario would involve Education Minister de Klerk becoming president and the NP Verligtes leaving the party to form their own mergers, possibly with the Progressive Federal Party. If a Verligte should become president, far fewer Nats would be likely to consider getting together with the Conservatives as this would involve their leaving the party in power — "something they are loathe to do."

Column Questions 'Outdatedness' of Apartheid

"Apartheid is outdated, says a Nationalist sage who goes livid when the possibility of a black state president is mentioned," writes Jon Qwelane in his "Just Jon" column on page 13. A year ago I wondered in this column why I must pay taxes, he says. "I wrote: 'It is no longer news that I pay equal taxes with whites. It does not matter one whit to many whites that while they have a say about the use of their money, mine is not to reason why — just to pay and pay.' 'Can anybody give me just one good reason why I must pay taxes to ensure that a white pensioner rereives R180 a month while my grandmother receives only R79?' 'Why should my taxes ensure massive subsidies for white schoolchilren at the expense of my (black) children?' 'Why must I pay taxes to a Government whose "reform" programme means my total exclusion from Parliament?' 'More bluntly, why should I finance apartheid?' " There have been changes, he writes. "White pensioners now receive R198 a month while my grandmother will have to be happy with the paltry R97 the minister of finance thinks she is worth. Yet my taxes ensure a better payout for whites and better school subsidies for their grandchildren. Apartheid is outdated and that is a reality, says the Nationalist Wise Man. If you believe that, you will believe anything."

Significance of Red Flags Debates

An article by Gary van Staden on page 16 questions the significance of the presence of the hammer and sickle flags at township funerals. Professor Willen Kleynhans of the University of South Africa says " 'there is nothing new in what is happening at township funerals.' " As a young, angry Afrikaner who considered myself downtrodden and oppressed by the British, " 'I remember hating everything they stood for and attending rallies and meetings where the flags of the Boer republics were flown.' 'We politicised funeral after funeral of prominent Afrikaner leaders and we also heard the rumours of how they bad been killed by the state.' 'To young blacks the red flag and communist banners represent everything their oppressors fear.' 'It is really a case of historical symbolism rather than any real communist support,' " he says. Professor Carl Noffke of the Rand Afrikaans University says a funeral at Cradock last year and a more recent one in Alexandra were "notable for a high-profile communist presence." Noffke says "it is quite obvious that the Communist Party is using these mass gatherings to put forward and highlight communist views," and that the banners supporting the Soviet Communist Party "should not be taken at anything but face value."

Budget Does Not Address Problems

One of the major factors contributing to unrest is the "high level of unemployment," says Dr Azar Jammine, chief economist of Econometrix, a Johannesburg economic research unit, in an article on page 16. Instead of trying to address the country's most pressing problem "all that this budget is likely to ensure is the continuation of our downward drift towards higher levels of unemployment and social chaos." He says that because of the way the government calculated the inflation rate and the receipts from the General Sales Tax, state spending in real terms has not been reduced. Further, because South Africa's income tax is progressive, those whose salaries have risen to keep up with inflation find themselves paying a higher proportion of their income in taxes, a phenomenon known as fiscal drag. When fiscal drag is aggregated over all the individuals in the economy, the government finds that with a 20 percent inflation rate, as there is at present, its receipts from income tax rise not by 20 percent, but by over 30 percent. It can easily afford to give back to individuals that additional 10 percent it receives without being any worse off than before. Figures show, he says, that people will be worse off in a year's time than they are now. The progressive tax system works in such a way that the only people who derive real benefits from tax cuts are high-income earners and, in some cases, married women. The tax benefits provided the rich by the budget, however, are not likely to generate the incentives needed to introduce a new spirit of entrepreneurship required to redress the country's economic decline.

Black Education Conference

An article by David Breier on page 17 says that at the conference in Durban this weekend of the National Education Crisis Committee [NECC] "black parents, teachers, students and pupils have to take one of the most agonising decisions imaginable" "which will profoundly affect the rest of their lives and the course of political turmoil in South Africa. They will, in effect, have to decide whether to sacrifice the education of the present generation of school pupils to achieve political and educational goals." Thousands of blacks lost a year of education in 1985 and some are said to have missed 3 years of normal classes. "Another lost year could be the point of no return." "Their decision will be as binding as law — and perhaps more so. For millions of blacks will respect the decision more than they respect the laws of a Parliament in which they have no say. The awe with which government members regard the conference indicates the gravity of the occasion." Certain demands they have made of the government to be met by 31 March have not been met — withdrawal of troops from the townships, release of all detained students, pupils, parents and teachers, the unbanning of the Congress of South African Students and other educational demands. The deputy minister of education and development aid, Sam de Beer, has had frequent meetings with the NECC and the Soweto Parents' Crisis Committee and has achieved more than could any other Nationalist, but whether it will be enough will be seen next weekend. "The school boycott issue forms part of a wider pattern of political action. The possibility of national strikes and consumer boycotts exist." "After a rough start, 1986 could get rougher."

Treatment of Political Offenders

"There is evidence that South Africa treats its political offenders more harshly than it treats its common criminals," says Jonathan Faithful in an article on page 17. "Is it less of an offence when a man or a woman commits a crime in pursuit of a political goal than if he or she commits the same crime in a fit of passion or in a desire for enrichment or some other kind of advancement? Thus far, our government has shown very clearly by its actions that it considers the political criminal in a worse light than the so-called common criminal." In most cases, he says, political crimes within reason are committed out of a desire " 'to serve the masses.' " "Within reason," excludes acts of blatant terrorism, acts deliberately intended to harm innocent bystanders. The people who are now being treated as worse than common criminals "may be the people with whom we whites may one day have to negotiate on the running of this country." "I don't say that political offenders convicted of criminal offences by the due process of the law should not be jailed; or even that some of them should not be kept out of circulation while evolution rather than revolution is given a chance. But they should be treated more as prisoners of war than as common criminals," Faithful says. Let's show some of our "civilisation" and "Christianity" by at least "treating our assailants with respect after knocking them down and locking them up."

Alexandra Projects Halted

On page 1 of the "finance" section, *THE SUNDAY STAR* reports that "the unrest in Johannesburg's Alexandra township has caused several housing and roads projects to be put on ice." While it is still hoped they might be undertaken, the firms that have pulled out are unlikely to return while unrest persists. Included is the second phase of a major housing project. The town clerk hopes the "township will have returned to normal in four of five weeks."

Ungovernable South Africa

Peter Sullivan asks on page 3 of the same section how ungovernable South Africa is, answering that "much of South Africa is ungovernable already. More will probably become ungovernable in the future, more's the pity. But the vast majority of the country's financial and industrial regions remain both governable and governed." He notes that Witwatersrand University was ungovernable this week with its disturbances. "Where government also breaks down is in the rural areas and in the townships. It is obvious that some schools have become ungovernable and clear that funerals are no longer governable occasions." He also notes that there is pitiful starvation in the rural areas and that poor people in particular are deprived of fuel, with women having to walk many kilometers for firewood. He decries the government's statement that it had to turn back antipoverty funds because it could not find recipients when "there are so many destitute people in South Africa that R6 million would be sucked up like rain in a drought." If the authorities truly believe that "that is the most ominous indicator of all that this country is becoming ungovernable. People with that depth of ignorance about what is really happening to the majority of people in South Africa could not govern engine revolutions, let alone a country in revolt."

Schwarz on Budget

On page 3 Harry Schwarz, MP for Yeoville, writes that the budget needed new approaches. One might be the concept of "worker and employee share ownership." If workers who were part of the emerging union movement were given shares in the business, might not they be less likely to strike? He believes that more imagination is needed. What is also needed is "a willingness to give up something to make an investment in the future." He suggests that perhaps people need to be taxed more. He hopes that someone will have the courage to give up the palliatives and "come forward with an imaginative plan that will turn this country away from the slippery slopes on which it now finds itself. It does not, however, require only leadership. It requires a willingness of the people, who have to be prepared to give up something for the have-nots."

Crocker's Rights

Neil Lurssen writes from Washington that there is no doubt that Dr Chester Crocker used the word "sham" when referring to South African policy. He knows as he was sitting there when he said it. He points out that South Africa is so badly perceived in the eyes of the world that saying anything nice about the country is a political liability for the Reagan administration. "The important point really is not whether it was polite for Dr Crocker to use words like 'sham' but that it has become politically necessary for the U.S. Government to state in clear and unambiguous terms exactly what it thinks about the deeds of the SA Government. South Africa ought to understand this." Americans do say friendly and sympathetic things not because they are nice guys but because they know whites have to live in the region regardless of what kind of political system evolves. However, when authorities do things like ban moderate black leaders when the talk is about negotiating with black leaders, then they must use such words. "It may not always seem that way, but the U.S. Government is a good friend of South Africa and it acts in a way that old friends do when they see a pal heading for trouble that could be avoided. It speaks out frankly and firmly." Dr Crocker and his colleagues have stuck their necks out for Pretoria often enough. "When they criticise they have earned the right, and there should be no doubts about their choice of words."

New Colored Residential Area

Johannesburg *BEELD* in Afrikaans of 21 March reports on page 4 that the city council of Midrand is to begin with the development of a new colored residential area alongside Tembisa on the East Rand. The area has already been declared a colored area, says the report, adding that conservative residents of Midrand last year complained at the planned colored area. They claimed that development of the area for coloreds would bring the ANC close to some of the most vulnerable targets in the country. A spokesman has said the new residential area would not be a squatter camp, although it is planned for low-cost housing.

Editorial on UNITA Visitors

An editorial on page 10 of the paper regrets the actions of a group of students at Witwatersrand University who this week demonstrated against the visiting UNITA officials who were to address a meeting on the campus. It says that the occasion was an opportunity for students who are serious about gaining knowledge to learn about Soviet colonialism and the realities of the Angolan bush. "This intolerance of the views of others is, however, not confined to the campus. It is being observed more and more in South African society. By shouting down the views of others, the way is being cleared for killing each other later."

Support for Namibia

An editorial on page 16 of the Pretoria *DIE TRANSVALER* in Afrikaans of 20 March says it should never be said South Africa neglects its duties towards South-West Africa. It points to the 500 million rands in the recent budget, allocated for the Windhoek administration, to which should be added the operational contribution by the SADF as well as contributions by the South African tax payer to help keep South-West Africa on its feet. "Granted, one's right to democracy and an orderly existence and protection should not necessarily be measured in terms of money. Nevertheless, the question of how long this country will have to continue making this fiscal contribution to the territory remains valid, not to mention the sacrifice in human lives." Against this background, the editorial adds, sober, thinking people in both countries hope that the most recent initiatives around a possible settlement of the South-West African problem will go further than past initiatives.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Condemns South African Aid to Rebels

MB211522 Dakar PANA in English 1512 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Mongu (Zambia), 21 March, (ZANA/PANA) — President Kenneth Kaunda has strongly condemned racist South Africa for its dirty methods of helping rebels to rise against independent African countries especially Mozambique, Angola, Lesotho and Botswana.

(?Dr Kaunda recalled) that South Africa had done the same to Zambia when it trained the Mushala gang which took the Zambian defence force eight years to destroy.

He said South Africa deserves to be condemned as it was still fighting independent African states after failing to eliminate apartheid in its own country.

President Kaunda made the charges today when he addressed public meeting at the town of Mongu. The president who referred to the Sharpeville incident when South African soldiers butchered 69 people on March 21 emphasized that apartheid is going to die because it is an evil thing. President Kaunda said March 21 (?was) remembered today worldwide with deep regrets.

He said although many lives had been lost since the Sharpeville massacre, black people, coloureds and Asians are [word indistinct] on Botha to declare apartheid dead.

The president added that the [word in distinct] in South Africa were saying that enough is enough and that they will not rest until justice and fair play is achieved in the country.

ZIMBABWE

Housing Minister Leaves for CPCZ Congress

MB221109 Harare Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] The minister of public construction and national housing, Comrade Simbarashe Mumbengegwi, has left for Prague to attend the 17th Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. The congress starts on Monday next week.

Dissidents' 'Atrocities' To Be Chronicled

MB241223 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1225 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Harare, March 23, SAPA — The Zimbabwe Department of Information will chronicle the atrocities commited by dissidents in Matabeleland for the information of Zimbabweans and the rest of the world.

The party's secretary for publicity and information, Mr Nathan Shamuyarira, said the atrocities had to be well documented and at the same time it had to be shown that dissidents were serving the interests of a foreign power, ZIANA News Agency reports.

He said "underground" political parties in Matabeleland were trying to blame the government for the atrocities and his department had started to show that dissidents were armed and supported by South Africa. To this end the party would chronicle the atrocities and publish them in Shona and Ndebele.

The party was also concerned about the spread of propaganda beamed from "the misnamed" Radio Truth in South Africa.

He said that to counter this "insidious propaganda", the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation would be approached to step up the South African propaganda.